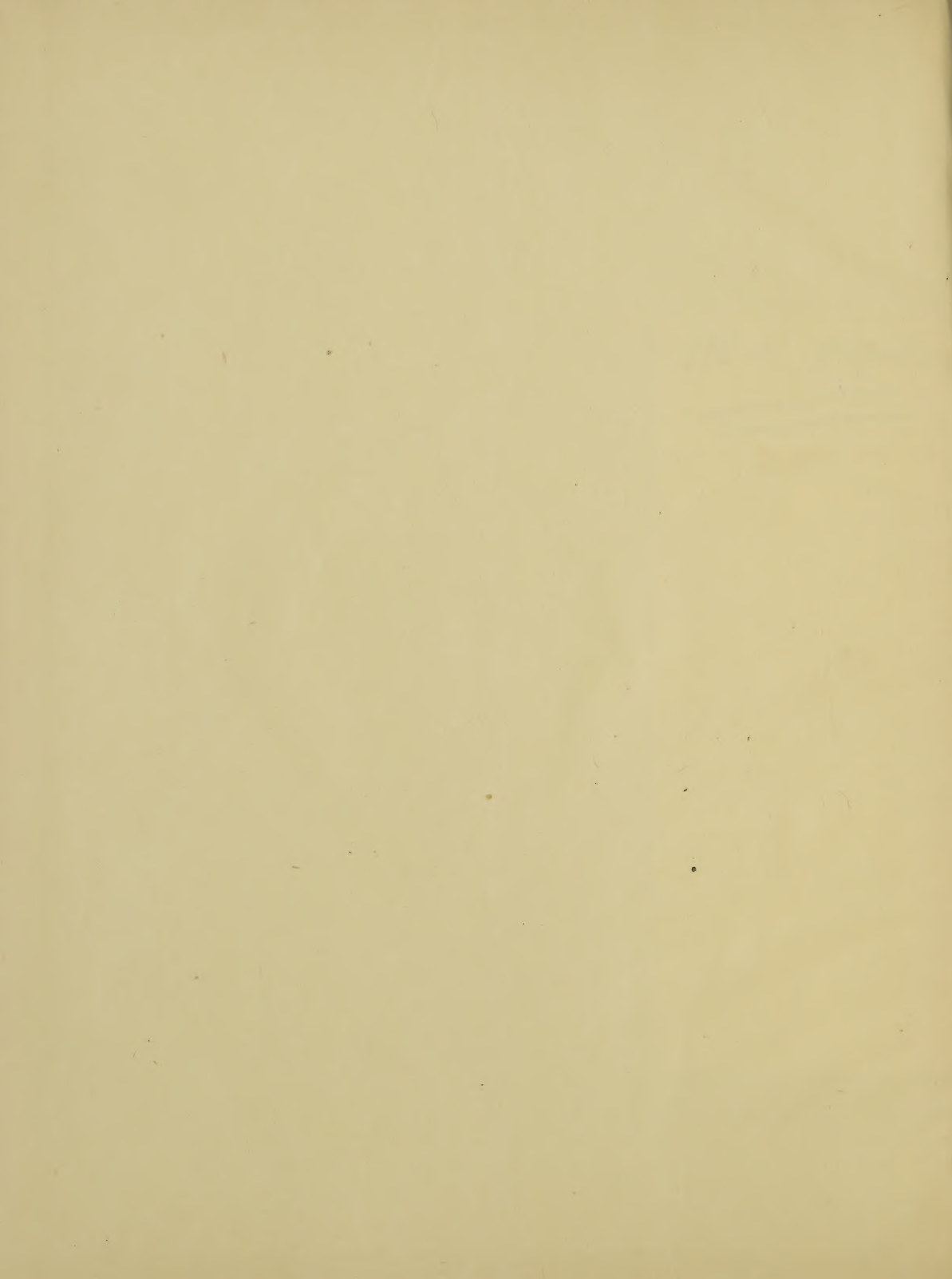


THE
AMERICAN STAMP
MERCURY
AND
NUMISMATIST
—
VOL. II.

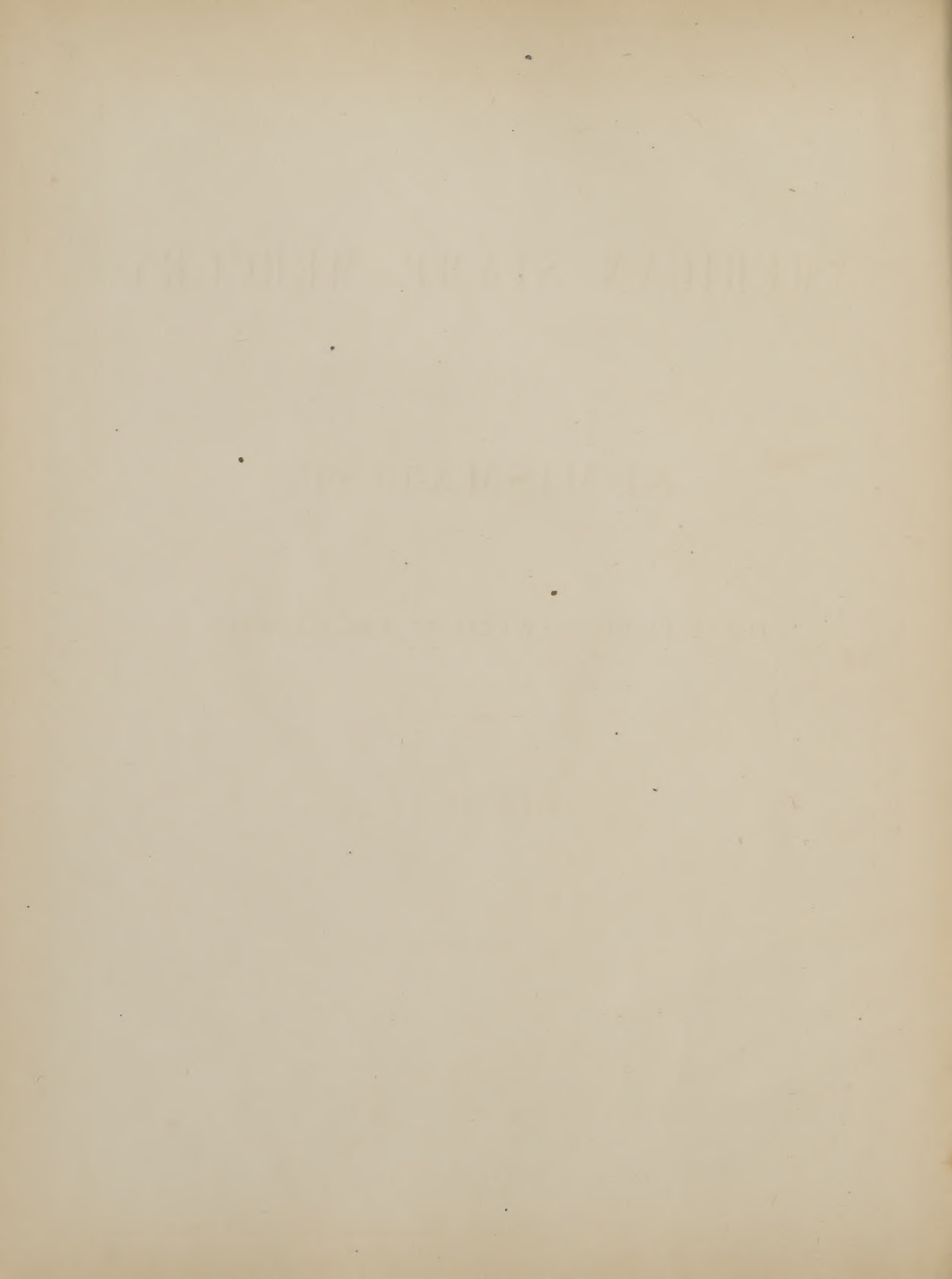


THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

100 NASSAU ST. N.Y.C. 100

VOL. 75 P. 41



THE
AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY
AND
NUMISMATIST.

ILLUSTRATED WITH 67 ENGRAVINGS.

VOLUME II.

BOSTON:
F. TRIFET & Co., DEALERS IN FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,
20 STATE STREET.

MDCCCLXIX.

ERRATA.

<i>Page, Col., Line,</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>	<i>Page, Col., Line,</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Read</i>
10 1 15	rect.	fed.	78 2	After the first paragraph should come the last, and then the others.	
16 2 last	Jackson	Washington.	85 2 26	operation	preparation.
19 2 30	five	six.	96 1 4	dummi Aqamensi	nummi Apamensi.
22 2 38	expense	receipts.	96 1 19	AYT	AYT.
29 1 42	1807	1867.	96 1 20	Augustus	Philip Augustus.
35 2 last	Brattleboro aim	Brattleboro stamp	96 1 38	Manus	Marcus.
		come under our no-	98 1 13	wave	name.
		tice." As our aim.	98 1 15	France	Franco.
37 2 14	1 penny	$\frac{1}{2}$ penny.	99 2 30	Timbropole	Timbropolic.
37 2 41	2 cents	5 cents.	103 1 34	Masachusetts	Masathusets.
40 1 43	50	20	103 1 39	three pence	penny.
40 2 22	50	20	103 1 45	Hungarian	Amazonian.
51 1 33	n	n			
51 1 40	Se ⁿ or	Senor.			

INDEX.

Where only the name of the Country is given its stamps are indicated.

	Page.		Page.
ADAM'S City Express Post	29	Essay on the Watermarks and Papers of Postage	
do. Express Co.	29	Stamps	25, 43, 57, 68, 78, 85, 110
American Express Co.	29	Essex Express Post	3, 11
do. Letter Mail Co.	29	FERNANDO POO	60
Angola	107	Finland	59
Answers to Correspondents,	8, 16, 24, 36, 44, 60, 68,	First Timbrophilic Magazine Published	92
	80, 92, 104	Forgery of the V. R. Stamp	22
Antioquia	75, 76	GALVESTON	10
Arthur's City Express	30	Gambia	54, 76
Austria	79	Geneva	31
Autograph Letter of Washington	77	Geographical and Historical Notice of all Countries	
Azores	107	Issuing Postage Stamps:—	
BADEN	4, 13, 20, 107	Antigua	89
Baton Rouge	9	Antioquia	89
Bavaria	4, 55, 66, 79, 98	Argentine Republic	89, 93
Belgium	20, 53, 66, 68	Austria	95, 105
Bentley's Dispatch	30	Great Britain	16, 22, 23, 28, 55, 58
Bergedorf	78	Greece	88
Blood's Penny Post	30	Guatemala	61
Bolivia	62	HAMBURG	28, 78
Borowitch	98	Hanover	78
Boyce's City Express Post	40	Hayti	61, 66, 108
Bradway's Dispatch	40	Heligoland	98
Brainard & Co.	41	History of the Roman Letters	71, 81
Brattleboro	35	Holland	29, 59, 66, 76
Brazil	28, 54	Hungary	28
Bremen	78, 104	IMPORTANCE of the Study of Numismatology,	69
Brigg's Paid Dispatch	41	India	3, 40, 57
British Columbia	48, 54	Ionian Islands	88
do. Guiana	16	Italy	76, 111
do. North American Colonies, Postage Stamps		JAMAICA	44
of the	37, 45	Japan	44
Broadway Post-Office	41	Java	55, 84
Brooklyn City Express Post	40	LA GUAYRA	8, 85, 98, 107
Brunswick	13, 78	Latest Imposition, the	55
Buenos Ayres	16	Liberia	107
CANADA	5, 37, 63	List of United States Envelopes	73, 85
Cape of Good Hope	28, 40	Local Stamps, Our	2, 11, 19, 29, 40, 56
Ceylon	20, 29, 40, 54, 76	Longevity Vase	77
Charleston	10	Lubeck	55, 78
Columbia	10	Luxembourg	3, 59
Comic Side of Numismatology	86	MALTA	88
Confederate States, Stamps of the	36	Massachusetts Coinage	102, 108
Correspondence:—		Mauritius	28, 66
Our Magazine	8, 16, 24, 36	Mecklenburgs	78
Contributors	24	Memphis	10
1818 Cent	80	Mexico	12, 20, 66, 107
West-Point Medal	92	Miscellaneous:—	
Impressions Wanted	92	Boston	8
Mackenzie Sale	92	High Values of New Granada	8
Canada Envelopes on Buff Paper	92	Birth of the English Postal System	8
St. Domingo Stamps	112	Morley Redivivus	15
New England Journal of Philately and its Pub-		Postmaster-General Randall's Annual Report,	15
lisher	112	Statistics from same	22
DENMARK	28, 59, 85, 107	The King of Essays	23
Dominion of Canada	29, 44, 49, 66, 85	What Becomes of the Old Postage Stamps?	24
ECUADOR	13, 61, 62, 108	A Yankee Postmaster	24
Egyptian Official Stamps	1, 60	Abuse of the Franking Privilege	44

Antiquity of Postage Stamps	60	QUEEN Anne Farthing	78
Cost of the Postal System	60	Queensland	55
Postal Items	60	RARE Medals	96, 106
New-York Coin Sale	79	Review of Publications:—	
Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada	80	<i>American Journal of Philately</i>	4, 21, 35, 67
Ancient Coins Exhumed	91	<i>Permanent Stamp Album</i>	41
Bill of Exchange Stamps	92	<i>Continental Philatelic Magazine</i>	56, 86
A Novice in Coin Collecting	91	<i>Descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign</i>	
United States Currency	91	<i>Postage Stamps, New York</i>	66
'Scents'	91	<i>Descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign</i>	
A Mail Delivery	103	<i>Postage Stamps, Boston</i>	67
Treasure Trove	103	<i>Timbrophilist</i>	109
Old Coin	104	Review of the Year 1868, Timbrophilic	17
'Bungtown'	104	Riasanski	108
New Postal Facilities in Austria	104	Richmond	10
Rare Scotch Coins	111	Romagna	110
Counterfeit Coins	112	Roman Letters, History of the	71, 81
United States Revenues	112	Roman States	3, 21, 66, 75, 110
Mobile	8	Roumania	21, 55, 66, 76, 87
Modena	111	Russia	53, 59, 66, 85, 98, 108
Moldavia	79	ST. THOMAS	65
Moldo Wallachia	79	St. Vincent	85
Monte Video	66, 85	Sandwich Islands	55, 108
Moscow	98	Sarawak	108
NAPLES	88	Sardinia	111
Nashville	9	Savannah	10
Neufchatel	30	Saxony	21, 28, 79
New Brunswick	45	Scarcest Stamps Known	104
New-England Numismatic and Archeological Soci-		Schleswig Holstein	78
ety	77, 109	Schools of Timbrophily	27
Newfoundland	20, 29, 46, 53, 85	Schunelburg	98
New Granada	21, 28, 55	Servia	66, 85, 87, 98, 107
Newly-Issued Stamps, 3, 12, 19, 28, 40, 51, 65, 75, 85,	98, 107	Shanghai Stamps, the	6, 13
New Orleans	9	Shell Money	100
New South Wales	84	Sicily	88
Nicaragua	108	Spain	29, 40, 55, 68, 85
North German Confederation, 12, 20, 53, 54, 55, 65,	85, 98, 108	Spanish West Indies	36, 40, 85
Norway	59	South Australia	28, 107
Nova Scotia	38	Stamp Dealers of Boston, the	60, 96
Numismatology, Importance of the Study of	69	Sweden	59
OFFICIAL Stamps, Egyptian	1, 60	Swiss Stamps, the Old	30
do. Victoria	18	Switzerland	68
Oldenburg	30	TIMBROGRAPHY	98
Old Swiss Stamps	30	Timbrophilic Review of the Year 1868	17
Our Local Stamps	2, 11, 19, 29, 40, 56	Timbrophily in the United States	81
New Name	69	Timbrophily, Schools of	27
PAPERS of Postage Stamps, Essay on the Water-		Transvaal Republic	54
marks and	24, 43, 57, 68, 78, 87, 110	Turkey	40, 54, 76, 87, 98, 107
Paraguay	13, 62, 84	Tuscany	110
Paraguayan Stamps	50	UNITED STATES	3, 16, 19, 29, 51, 75, 85, 108
Parma	111	do. Envelopes, List of	73, 85
Peru	3, 28, 75	VANCOUVER'S Island	48
Perry Medal	80	Vaud	30
Petersburg	10	Venezuela	3, 85, 98, 107
Philatelic Society, London	64, 76, 83, 102	Victoria	107
Poland	59	do. Official Stamps	18
Portugal	40, 60, 76, 108	WATERMARKS and Papers of Postage Stamps,	
Postage Stamps of the British North American		Essay on the	25, 43, 57, 68, 78, 87, 110
Colonies	37, 45	Wenden	87
Post-Office, the	34, 39	Westervelt's Post	2
Prince Edward Island	13, 47, 54	Wilmington	10
Prussia	44, 68	Wurtemberg	21, 55, 79, 85
		YOUTHFUL Depravity	33

THE EGYPTIAN "OFFICIAL" STAMPS.

BY THE EDITORS.

We have been favored by our correspondent in Alexandria with a description and a list of these, till now, little known stamps; and herewith give it for the benefit of our readers, who will no doubt be interested in them, especially those possessing Lallier's Album, which contains places for about a score of them.

Mr. M. informs us that the Post-Office was first organized by a certain Mr. Chini, under the name of "Posta Europea." No stamps were issued; but a series of fifteen "tickets" were issued, which were used for the official correspondence from one office to an other. He does not give us their color, but the names of the offices issuing them are as follows:

Alessandria.	Benha.	Mihalla.
Damanhour.	Cairo.	Samanud.
Tanta.	Suez.	Mansara.
Kafr-Zayat.	Zagasik.	Damiata.
Birket-el-Sab.	Zefta.	Galinb.

This series was printed in black on color, and of the annexed type. They are extremely scarce now, and fetch a very high price, principally the Cairo one.

After many fruitless offers, the Egyptian Government purchased the "Posta Europea" of Mr. Chini, and issued the first set under

the new management of official stamps, which were of the annexed type. They are printed in black on color, and consist of the following varieties:—



Cairo,	green; pink.
Suez,	rose.
Allessandria,	pink.
Damanhour,	grey.
Damiata,	yellow.
Took,	brown.
Birket-el-Sab,	red-brown.
Zagazik,	green.
Atfe,	yellow.
Kafr-Duar,	blue.
Benka,	green; brownish.
Zifta,	grey.
Abuhomus,	pink; brown.
Samanud,	green.
Kafr-Zayat,	brown.
Ramle,	brown.
Tanta,	_____
Teh-el-Barud,	grey.
Galinb,	green.
Mansura,	_____
Michalla,	_____

This series was soon followed by an other,

of a type rather larger than the last, and printed in color on white, some of them being very handsome in appearance. The varieties are as follows:—



Alessandria,	maroon,
Cairo,	black.
Jook,	pink.
Took,	vermilion.
Atfe,	blue.
Direzione Generale,	vermilion.
Tanta,	maroon.
Konstantinople,	vermilion.
Constantinople,	"
Smirne,	grey.
Gedda,	grey.
Porto Said,	blue.
Minet-el-Gamp.	orange.
Minet-el-Gamh,	"

{	Jeh-el-Barud,	vermilion.
{	Teh-el-Barud,	"
	Jbafi-Zayat,	yellow-ocre.
	Zefta,	green.
	Mahallat-Roh,	brown.
	Suez,	green.
	Galiub,	"
	Benha,	grey.
	Zagazig,	blue.
{	Damanhour,	green.
{	Damanhur,	"
{	Abushomas,	maroon.
{	Abuhomus,	"
	Mansura,	mauve.
{	Birket-el-Saat,	green.
{	Birket-el-Sab,	"
	Kafr-el-Zayat,	yellow.
	Jbafi-el-Dauar,	"
	Damiata,	blue.
	Mahalla,	orange.
	Direzione Generale	
	Alessandria,	red.
{	Samanua,	green.
{	Samanud,	"
	Scibin-el-anater,	brown.
	Bilbes,	yellow.
	Jsmailia,	green.
	Kafr-el-Dauar,	_____

The first of each pair with brackets attached shows an error in the spelling.

Then came the third and last issue, which



is much altered in appearance. As will be seen by the engraving, the letters are white instead of dark, and the back-ground is filled with vertical lines. Of this series there are twenty-five varieties, as follows:—

Alessandria,	pink.
Cairo,	blue; brown.
Damanhour,	yellow.

Benisueft,	grey.
Benha,	_____
Minia,	blue.
Desuk,	grey.
Galiub,	brown.
Ghisa,	blue.
Kafr-el-Zayat,	carmine.
Magaga,	yellow.
Mansura,	brown.
Massana,	green.
Medinet-el-Fayum,	lilac.
Suakin,	_____
Tanta,	blue.
Uasta,	magenta.
Zagazig,	green.
El-tel-el-Kebir,	_____
El-Gisir,	_____
Chaluf-el-Taraba,	_____
Serapoum,	_____
Kantara,	yellow.
Fasce,	violet.
Mahallet-Roh,	buff.

The above is, we believe, a complete list of these stamps. Of course each collector will judge for himself whether he will collect them or not; and if he does, whether to collect all the varieties. For our part, we should be content with a few of each series.

OUR "LOCAL" STAMPS.

BY S. A. T.

Continued from Vol. 1, p. 86.

The next stamps claiming attention are those issued by C. H. Westervelt, of Chester, N.Y. This gentleman has for several years past conveyed letters between the villages of Chester Depot, East Chester, and West Chester, N.Y., and this post being a public convenience in the vicinity, has continued to exist in defiance alike of U.S. district attorneys, U.S. marshals, grand juries, acts of Congress, and various other mighty and persuasive influences which, in any other country under the sun, would have long since consigned Mr. Westervelt to some dungeon,

and his post would have been "suppressed by the Government" with a vengeance.

The prospectus of Mr. Westervelt's Post forms a standing advertisement in the columns of the Goshen Democrat, embellished with engravings of his stamps.

The stamps are of three kinds. The first issue is an oblong type-set label, with inscription in italic (Westervelt's Post, Chester, N.Y.), and was pictured in the "*Once a Month*" for July, 1864. The second issue has for a device the head of an Indian maiden (we recollect a Provincial stamp journal once described it as the head of an Indian *princess*, forgetful of the fact that princes and princesses are alike unknown in this home of liberty.) The third emission has for a design the effigy of General Grant. The inscription is similar in all the issues. The stamps are printed in both red and black on white and colored papers.

There is also an emission of stamped envelopes having for a device that well-known and familiar fowl, the American eagle, in his favorite defensive attitude, as depicted on the metallic currency which, in our youthful days, formed the circulating medium of our beloved country.

Having thus described the existing local stamps, we propose, before entering on the task of classifying the various labels which are to be found on sale by the stamp venders of the present day, to relate a few episodes in the local stamp business, which, being matters of fact, will doubtless possess a certain interest for some of our readers, and we now propose to give the

STORY OF THE ESSEX EXPRESS POST, A STORY WITH A MORAL.

In or about the year 1856, a trio of young men, all of whom had been carriers for Boyd's City Post, Swart's Chatham Square P.O., in the city of New York, and some other institutions of like kind, conceived the idea of establishing an Express Post on their own

hook, as Captain Cuttle would say, and, to that intent, they caused some hundred or two of tin boxes of the orthodox pattern to be made, which were properly labelled, and located chiefly on the east side of the city, and either from that circumstance, or because their head-quarters were in Essex Street, we presume the word 'Essex' was borrowed.

In each of the stations where a box was located several hundred stamps were sold to the proprietor, on the proceeds of which sales the proprietors of the Essex Express Post retired gracefully from business within a month from the commencement of their operations.

To be continued.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

INDIA. Two more bill stamps have been pressed into the postal service. They are described as follows. In the centre is the Queen's head, FOUR above, ANNAS below, and in green ink the words SERVICE POSTAGE in two lines, one above and the other below the head. Perforated and colored lilac. The other is almost similar in appearance, the value, EIGHT, ANNAS being printed in the same manner as in the other. Perforated and colored lilac.

LUXEMBOURG. The one, two, and four centimes have undergone some slight variations lately, the first and last being printed in an other shade of color, and the whole three being perforated.

PERU. The one dinero is again in use. It is now printed in a yellowish-green color.

LA GUAIRA. The one centavo is now printed in violet.

ROMAN STATES. The two and five centesimi are perforated.

UNITED STATES. At last we have some positive information in regard to our new stamps. The contract has again been awarded to the National Bank-Note Company of New York, who are now engaged in preparing them. We have seen proofs of some of the values, which are very handsome indeed. The

designs of those we saw are different on each denomination, and consist of the following:—

The two-cent stamp represents a post-boy on a horse which is running at full speed. This shows that the stamp is used for despatch letters.

The three-cent stamp has a finely-engraved locomotive surrounded by rays of lightning.

The five-cent stamp has a portrait of Washington.

The ten-cent stamp, a microscopical copy of the painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The twelve-cent stamp has a picture of an ocean steamer.

The thirty-cent stamp has a copy of an other of the Capitol pictures, viz.: the surrender of Burgoyne. We are sorry that the latter design has been chosen; it will always bring an unpleasant recollection to our English cousins whenever they see a copy of this stamp.

We expect further information soon, and if it arrives in time, we will insert it in this number.

BADEN. We take great pleasure in first announcing the appearance of four new European stamps, two for Baden and two for Bavaria. The first is of the same design as the current set, is green, and of the value of 1 kreuzer, perforated *and gummed* (ye French school). It has the value at the bottom, 1 KR. instead of 1 KREUZER, as the black stamp. The other we have not seen, but are informed that it is a 7-kreuzer stamp. The two for

BAVARIA are 6 kreuzer, brown, and 7 kreuzer, blue.

REVIEW OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The American Journal of Philately, New York: the New York Philatelic Society.

The Journal of Philately is turned complimentary this month, and favors us with an extended review,—in fact, we may add a very particularly extended review, and which

said review is the only original article to be found in its somewhat extended columns. Even the stale formula of the “transactions” of the Moonshine Stamp Society are very curtailed and “valuable papers,” which were no doubt read before that chimerical assembly, are most unavoidably crowded out to make room for about two pages of superlative nonsense, which, from its somewhat peculiar style of spelling, is easily recognizable as being one of the brilliant efforts of the “junior” editor.

With rare perception in one so new to the editorial chair, this gifted appropriator of other people’s compilations, being unable to refute our charges of plagiarism, as specified in our last number, evinces considerable tact in dodging the point altogether, and cunningly commences by raising objections to our employing an editorial corps. Now, the question of the authorship of any articles which appear in this journal is a matter which it is not the province of our ill-bred cotemporary to enquire, and, for his edification, we would state that we own this paper, that we established it, and, furthermore, that we employ an editorial corps who are efficient, and we pay them a consideration for their services, and we assume the responsibility of all and every article which appears in it, and we politely suggest the courtesy of a strict attention to his own private affairs, to the exclusion of those of his neighbors, on the part of our meddlesome reviewer.

Passing from this, the American plagiarist next asserts that we publish matter “*which our lowest criminal papers would blush to acknowledge.*” This audacious statement is a proof of the dire extremity to which the keen arrows of truth will drive an unscrupulous and unprincipled scribbler, himself devoid of either personal ability or moral courage enough to acknowledge his fault like a man.

By way of a change, this lucid chronicler next asks gravely “Is this Philately?” which, being a conundrum better adapted to the “end man” of a negro minstrel troupe than

as a query to a stamp journal, we desire to say that we give it up at once.

After propounding this grave conundrum, he passes on with a sneer at Mr. Chute, who, as the first timbrophilic writer on this continent, we are bound to say on his behalf that he with ourselves entertains a feeling of the most supreme contempt for literary pirates in general, and for the talented egotist who snarls at him in particular; and we feel tolerably confident that his equanimity is not likely to be disturbed by the barking of the Journal's "junior."

We next come to a matter of fact. He asserts that a personal friend of our own was refused admission into the Moonshine Philatelic Society on the ground of respectability. This statement can only be met by a plain and unqualified denial. Now, in the first place, we have not a friend in New York or elsewhere but who is perfectly well aware that the existence of this "Society" is a simple and silly fiction, innocent enough in its way, its design being only another of the loud-mouthed and gaseous pretenses of which the columns of the Journal furnish so many striking examples.

The Society, as every collector of repute in America knows, is simply a pretense,—no meetings are held, and the so-called Society consists of three persons, who conjunctively sustain the paper which tells the gullible public about the Society and its mighty influence.

We do unqualifiedly deny that any friend of ours was ever so demented as to seek fellowship with the trio aforesaid; and the statement that such was the case is a tolerable specimen of a downright, unblushing, impudent, audacious falsehood.

Regarding the "reprint" of his paper, he states that at a certain time he exhibited a copy of both the reprint and original to ourselves. This statement, unlike the other, is partly true and partly false. Copies of two papers, one printed on white and the other on yellow paper, were exhibited to us, and we

noted particularly that the erroneous spelling was carefully reproduced in the "reprint;" we, also, noted that where a defective letter had been employed in the setting up it was in like manner visible in the so-called reprint, showing conclusively that reprint and original were printed from the same form.

There is but one point to which it is worth while to allude; but, lest our readers should blame us for omitting to exhibit the woeful ignorance of this chronological compiler, we will only state that he now gives the date of issue of the U.S. 5-cent head of Franklin as occurring in 1856! This is chronological information with a vengeance, and needs no comment from us. He also gives the date of the first Canadian series as taking place in 1856. This is incorrect, and to rebut his statement we transcribe from the report of the Postmaster-General of Canada, for the year ending April 5, 1852, as follows:—

Page 3. Upon the transfer of the control of the Post-Office department in this Province by the Imperial Post-Office authorities to the Provincial Government, on the 6th of April, 1851, the number of Post-Offices in operation was found to be 601; the number of miles of established Post Route, 7595. * * *

Page 6. Postage stamps for the prepayment of letters of the respective values of 3d., 6d., 1sh were procured and issued immediately after the transfer, and have been kept for sale to the public at all the principal Post-Offices in the Provinces. The demand however has not been great, as will be seen by the following statement; and the sales of the last quarter of the year would seem to demonstrate that the use of these stamps in prepayment of letters is rather diminishing than gaining ground in the community. There was procured from the manufacturers (Messrs. Rawdon Wright, Hatch, & Co., of New York) during the year ending 5th April, 1852,

250,200	3d. Stamps,
100,400	6d. "
51,000	1sh. "

Of these have been issued to Post-Masters, for sale, to the same date,

217,300	3d. stamps, value	£2716,	5s.,	0d.
63,400	6d. "	"	1585,	0s.,
820	1sh. "	"	41,	0s.,

281,520	£4342,	5s.,	0d.
---------	--------	------	-----

We deem further discussion of the question of the date of the emission of the Canadian stamps needless after the above; and we also accord the worthy chronicler the credit of his dates in this particular case, as they are certainly not taken from our catalogue.

We believe we have replied to our piratical cotemporary, and we have not accused him of blasphemy or scurrility; we would, however, remind him in reply to his quibble about "gentlemen" that the possession of a fashionable hat of the grey pattern is not usually accepted in Boston as being the mark of a gentleman; and, whatever the members of the Philatelic trio of New York may imagine it adds to their dignity in that city, we neither know nor care. There is, however, no danger of the *Boston* public mistaking the standing of the *Journal's* "junior,"—but, then, a prophet is never esteemed in his own country.

We trust our cotemporary will be satisfied with our reply. Viewing his remarks retrospectively, we are forced to conclude that he mistook his vocation when he essayed the dual roles of chronicler and critic; and we are fain to imagine that he will find the path to the chair of the "*American Philatelist*, Box —, N.Y.," as very decidedly up-hill work; and, as to writing himself into notice, we fear that even his vanity on that point is not sufficiently developed to carry him through with safety.

In conclusion, illustrious egotist, take our advice:

Fling away ambition:
By that sin fell the angels;
How can man
Then hope to win by it?

THE SHANGHAI STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR OF *The Philatelist*.

We are not aware of any article having ever appeared in either of the Philatelic magazines of this country touching upon the singularly-designed locals which we propose grouping before our readers to the best of our ability.

The first meagre notice respecting them we find in the July number of the third volume of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*. A short paper on the Asiatic stamps by Overy Taylor gives occasion for cursory remark that

some queer-looking labels produced by a local steamship company plying between Hong Kong and some Chinese port now share the honor with those of the former place in bearing a Chinese inscription. No doubt the Shanghai impressions are referred to.

In the number for the January succeeding, it is remarked that a Chinese local is said to have been sometime in use, which is described without its genuineness being vouched for. The testimony of two continental magazines, of which one could not have copied the other, both appearing simultaneously, is considered to be in favor of the outlanders; while the jumble of English and Chinese, and the dictum of a gentleman resident at Shanghai who denied the existence of the value designated thereon, is adduced as contra-evidence.

In the very next number the whole set is summarily dismissed without any description of number, color, or value; and a newly-issued superseded set elaborately described, the points of similarity and difference being fully pointed out. Two months afterwards it is noted that the originals could not have been wholly suppressed, the last mail from Shanghai bringing over one of the early impressions.

Further, and in many respects exhaustive information is embodied in the June number in a letter from a gentleman formerly well known on 'Change. The whole is much too lengthy for re-insertion here; but we give the more interesting, informatory, and salient points thereof.

The mixture of Chinese and English is accounted for on the supposition that Shanghai really belonging to China, the conventional dragon was chosen as an apt emblem; and the objection to the term *candareen* is met by the information that it is a weight not a coin, business being transacted in the Celestial manner by *weight* of metal. The sole coin used is the "cash." How many British accountants talk Chinese every day, as Moliere's *bourgeois* talked prose,—without knowing it!

13 cash=1 candareen=7-10d.

10 candareens=1 mace.

10 mace=1 tael=1 oz. and a fraction.

With regard to the interpretation of the Chinese characters in the inscription: the right-hand top corner bears CHANG or SHANG, the left-hand HAI or HAE, the Chinese reading either perpendicularly or from right to left like other Eastern nations. The lower angles contain KUNG POO, according to the correspondent, KOUNG POU, as spelled by a translator, the variation making no difference in the pronunciation. The words imply the name given to the English municipal council. The right side of the stamp has SHU SHIN KWAN, or (Frenchified) CHOU SIN KOUAN, — Book Letter Company, *fide* the English, Post-Office, *fide* the French translator. All these characters are found invariably in every individual of all the emissions: those in the left-hand column, signifying the monetary value, vary, of course, in each several instance. We transcribe as follows:—

YIH FUN YIN, i.e.,	One candareen silver.
LIANG " " " " " " " " " "	Two " " " " " "
SAN " " " " " " " " " "	Three " " " " " "
SI " " " " " " " " " "	Four " " " " " "
LUH " " " " " " " " " "	Six " " " " " "
PAH " " " " " " " " " "	Eight " " " " " "

YIH T'SIEN UHR	" " " " " " " " " "	{ One mace, two candareens silver—12 candareens.
YIH T'SIEN LUH	" " " " " " " " " "	{ One mace, six candareens silver—16 candareens.

The writer alluded to tells us that these stamps are struck off by hand from wooden or ivory dies, doubtless of native make;* adding that a party applying at the Post-Office for some which happened to be exhausted, they were manufactured while he waited.

The *North-China Daily News* contains a notice from the Council, dated 4th December, 1865, to the effect that a branch office had been opened at Ningpo, to ensure security in the delivery of letters, and that the rates are, Letters, Circulars, newspapers, for town delivery, 1 candareen.

* The dies, which were wooden not ivory, that material being inapplicable for the purpose, were supplied, as well as the paper, &c., by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., of Cornhill.

Newspapers and printed circulars to or from the River, Coast or Japan ports,	2 candareens.
Native or foreign letters or packages,	3 " "
Ditto 1 oz. and under,	3 " "
Ditto 2 oz. and under,	6 " "
Ditto 4 oz. and under,	12 " "
Every additional oz., or fractional part,	3 " "

"Stampede" (the writer in question) remarks that no mention is here made of the 8c., 12c., or 16c values, perhaps because the rate had been lowered by this notice. A glance at his own table will show that the 12c. is mentioned. We should scarcely imagine the 8c. and 16c. denominations had been then abolished, because those very values with two lower ones were afterwards in use; for, on the 5th of the following March, is another official notification that what is now known as the second issue of Shanghai had just arrived from England, and that the superseded emission might be exchanged for them on application to the manager of the local post-office. The translation of the lower angle characters as OFFICE OF WORKS, and those in the right column as POST-OFFICE, is confirmed by M. de Rosny, professor of the Oriental language in the Imperial School at Paris. We learn from another source that a French postal bureau has been established at Shanghai since 1863, and that the 80 centimes prepays a single rate for letters to the mother country.

The earliest emission was printed on slips of thin wove or thicker laid paper, containing six impressions about half an inch apart. It was stated that the 1c. blue was the sole label gummed, but others in our own collection are so prepared, as will be noticed hereafter.

A great peculiarity in this issue is that the monetary denomination is at times found in the singular for values above the unit. This is the case with all except the 6c. and 12c., which are invariably plural. Our Belgian contemporary jocosely remarks that their printer, doubting the propriety of adding an s

for the plural, manufactured half in one way, half in an other; thus assuring himself of having a moiety correct. There are two other errors noticeable in two individuals of the

To be continued.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

"BOSTON." In the article under this caption last month we stated that *three* stamp journals had been issued in Boston; it should have been "Boston, two, Albany, one." Cambridge, Mass., has produced one manual. Meriden, Conn., two instead of one sheet-form list; and Middletown, Conn., one local stamp list.

HIGH VALUES OF NEW GRANADA. There has always been an explanation wanted for the fact of New Granada having stamps of such high values as 5 and 10 pesos for postal purposes (the peso of New Granada is worth about 4-2). I mentioned their existence to a friend at Bogota, from whom I received the following reply:—"The 5 and 10 dollar stamps you speak of, I have never heard of, but think they must be used in Eucomienda offices to send down specie." There is nothing definite here, but I give it for what it is worth. That they are not for *interior postage* is certain, or I should have received them; and had they been for *foreign postage*, it is equally certain that some would have appeared, post-marked in England or France ere now. My friend informs me that the correspondence of the interior is next to nothing, and mostly done by private messengers. This is no doubt due to the unsettled state of the country.—Mr. Bemberton in *The Philatelist*.

THE BIRTH OF THE ENGLISH POSTAL SYSTEM. A few lines will serve for the record of its birth. In the times of the Wars of the Roses, special messengers conveyed all important tidings to the courts of kings and the camps of generals, and it was only by degrees that these officers gave place to public carriers. And when the "carrier"

sprung up, he had only his own horses to rely on; his speed, therefore, was limited by the pace at which his horse could travel *per diem* over the no-ways rather than highways which Macaulay has made so familiar to us. In time, these carriers appear to have adopted the plan of expediting messages by the help of relays of men and horses; and the words "haste, post, haste," which as antiquaries tell us are still found endorsed on the covers of letters of the 15th and 16th centuries, show the near balance of the hopes and fears of those who trusted to them their messages. Lord Canning, who of course had access to the old MSS. belonging to his department, tells us that Edward IV., when at war with Scotland, established relays of horses between Edinburg and York; and he sees reason for believing that these horses were "posted" at intervals of about 20 miles, and accomplished 200 miles in three days. An amusing contrast certainly between A.D. 1481 and A.D. 1868, when the post which leaves London at night is delivered at Edinburg in the morning.—*The Times*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR MAGAZINE.

To the Editor of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Dear Sir, Enclosed please find subscription for the second year of the MERCURY. I am glad that it is going to be enlarged, for I take great interest in the paper, and wish to see it prosper. I think that it is the best paper out, and do not consider it a waste of money to subscribe: therefore, I send my money cheerfully.

Yours respectfully,
J. B. C—.

Providence, R.I.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. M., Alexandria. Thanks for information. Can you give us the colors of the first issue?

J. B. C., Providence. We are glad that you like "our paper," and we will do all that we can to continue to meet our friends' patronage.

COLLECTOR. The first stamp you mention is an Austrian Revenue.

STAMPIST. There are about 4000 stamps, counting all the varieties of shades, perforations, &c.

R. H., New York. The article on forgeries will be commenced in the next number.

J. W., Albany. Thanks for subscribers. Try to get more. You are the second best so far.

THE STAMPS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

BY J. M. CHUTE.

(For some time past it has been our intention to present to our readers, in a compact form, the many items which from time to time have been published regarding these stamps; and in attempting to form a list of the stamps of this ill-fated Confederacy, we feel confident that we shall respond to the wishes of many collectors.—ED.)

The earliest stamps issued were the rare and primitive provisionals. M. Moens and Dr. Gray in their catalogues class these stamps among the locals. They are locals in one sense of the word; but when we consider that at the time of their issue the Confederate post-office department existed, which certainly had power to suppress them, and that they were issued and used for convenience by the post-masters of the larger southern towns until the department could supply them with the authorized issue of the Government, we should certainly look upon them as the legitimate predecessors of the authorized stamps emitted by the Confederate Government.

Among the first issued of these provisional stamps were those emitted by the New Orleans, La., post-office, viz.:—

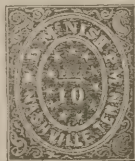


- 2 cents, slate blue.
- 2 cents, light blue.
- 2 cents, orange red.
- 5 cents, brown on blue.
- 5 cents, bistre.

The design of these stamps is too well known to be repeated here: suffice it to say that they are printed on thin, unwatermarked, white paper; and generally have the lettering and figure of value in relief. This, however, is not a sure test of genuineness, as we possess a post-marked copy of the two-cent blue with no part of the lettering or figure embossed. These stamps were struck from the

blocks which were originally engraved and used in 1846, but which were resuscitated soon after the breaking out of the rebellion, and made to do duty provisionally. These stamps had quite a large circulation, and unused copies may be easily procured, but genuine, postmarked copies are almost unattainable.

The next issued were the Nashville stamps of the following values, viz.:—



- 3 cents, light red.
- 5 cents, crimson.
- 5 cents, slate blue.
- 5 cents, dark slate.
- 10 cents, green.

These were issued in the Summer of 1861, by W. D. McNish, the then post-master, and were used for home letters, and also prepaid correspondence to other parts of the Confederacy. The 5 cent and 10 cent were evidently printed from wood blocks, and were struck off upon white, unwatermarked paper. The 3 cent is similar to the other, but shows many minor differences, having been set by type. There are many imitations of these stamps which are sold for genuine, but genuine copies in good condition are rarely met with.

Below we give a list of other provisionals, which were issued by the post-masters of the larger towns, whose names they bear, between July and October, 1861, the date when the Confederate post-office department was enabled to supply the various post-offices with the Government emissions. They are all of considerable variety, and but few indeed are the lucky possessors of them. The device of all is well known to collectors (to judge from the amount of fac similies with which the stamp markets have been inundated), therefore the re-description of them will be comparatively useless. They are of the following values and colors, viz.:—

Baton Rouge, La., P.O. (type set), 5 cent, rose; 5 cent, black.

Charleston, S.C., P.O. (type set), 5 ct., blue.
Charleston, S.C., P.O. (type set), 5 ct., blue
(on yellow paper).

Columbia, S.C., P.O., 5 cent, blue.

Galveston, Texas, P.O., 5 cent, brown; 5 ct., blue.

Memphis, Tenn., P.O. (wood block), 5 cent, red; 2 cent, blue.

Mobile, Ala., P.O. (wood block), 2 cent, black; 5 cent, blue.

Petersburg, Va., P.O. (type set), 5 ct., blue; 5 cent, black.

Savannah, Ga., P.O., 10 cent, blue.

Wilmington, N.C., P.O. (type set), 5 cent, green; 5 cent, rect.

No provisionals were furnished by the Richmond post-office, and their issue elsewhere did not meet with the approval of the Confederate post-office department. They were soon replaced by the authorized issue of the Government, which took place October, 1861, consisting of three values, viz.:—



2 cents, green.

5 cents, light blue.

5 cents, dark blue.

5 cents, light green.

5 cents, dark green.

10 cents, light blue.

10 cents, dark blue.

10 cents, rose. 10 cents, red.

The large 2 cent green bears the head of Jackson, the hero of New Orleans, to the left in an oval; the large 5 cent, the head of Jeff. Davis, to the right in an oval; and the 10 cent, the head of Madison, in a circle. These were printed on white, unwatermarked paper, and were manufactured by Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, lithographers, Richmond, Va., who obtained the contract for the manufacture of Confederate stamps in September, 1861. The 10 cent is of considerable rarity, especially the "rose," perfect specimens of which are seldom seen.

Early in 1861 the Confederate government despatched an agent to England to form a

contract with Messrs. De La Rue & Co., of London, for the manufacture of dies for a one and a five cent stamps. Those plates were produced and purchased by the agent of De La Rue, with about 400,000 worth of stamps ready for use, which were shipped on a vessel bound for Wilmington, N.C., but which was captured while attempting to run the blockade by a U.S. war vessel. The plates were thrown overboard by the agent, and were never recovered; but the stamps were seized and confiscated by the U. S. Government. Soon after, two plates—one, value 1 cent, one, value 5 cents, with a number of stamps, were successfully shipped from England to Richmond, and did duty in connection with those manufactured by Hoyer & Ludwig. They were as follows, viz.:—

1 cent, orange (head of Calhoun).

5 cent, light blue (head of Davis).

5 cents, dark blue " "

The plates were electrotyped, and contained one hundred impressions each. The stamps were printed on white paper, without watermark or perforation. The portrait of Calhoun on the 1 cent being so imperfect, those stamps were never used by the department, and the rate of postage being changed soon after their arrival from England, they became obsolete. The lithographed stamps produced by Hoyer & Ludwig not meeting the requirements of the Confederate Government, and offering great facilities to the forger, a new contract was entered into with Messrs. Archer & Daly, of Richmond, in 1863. Mr. Archer, of the above firm, immediately engraved a new design for a 10-cent stamp, bearing the portrait of Jefferson Davis to the right, with the value expressed in words at the bottom. This was the first steel-engraved stamp furnished to the department; but the portrait being very imperfect, it was used only until new dies could be prepared, which had a more perfect portrait of Davis, and the value expressed in figures. Stamps printed from the

first die are of considerable rarity, having had but a very short currency, and are rarely met with. There are two distinct dies of the latest engraved 10 cent, and collectors, by examining their specimen, will notice the difference in the shape of the neck, and the arrangement of the hair in the portrait. M. Halpin, an English engraver employed by Archer & Daly, engraved a new design for a 2-cent stamp, bearing the portrait of Andrew Jackson, in an oval, with the value expressed in words below the portrait, and the figure 2 in the two upper corners.

In 1864, Mr. Halpin engraved the 20-cent stamp, bearing the portrait of Washington in an oval, and as fast as the new steel plates were completed, the lithographic stones, produced by Hoyer & Ludwig, were destroyed by the department. The stamps produced by Archer & Daly were all printed on poor quality of white paper, and are of the following color, viz.:—



2 cents, red. 10 cents, light blue. 10 cents, dark blue. 20 cents, light green. 20 cents, dark green.

The supply of the small 5 cent, engraved by De La Rue & Co., being nearly exhausted, the plates were delivered by the department to Archer & Daly, who struck off a new supply, which can be distinguished (by being printed with dark blue ink and badly smudged) from those produced by De La Rue.

Messrs. Archer & Daly failing to comply with the terms of their contract, a new one was entered into with Messrs. Keating & Ball, of Columbia. S.C., and the plates &c. were delivered to them in 1864. This firm never engraved stamps for the Confederate Government, but prepared them from the

plates designed and engraved by Archer & Daly, and fixed their imprint upon them to decide the responsibility of issue. These plates were used by Keating & Ball until the great conflagration at Columbia (which occurred a few weeks prior to the evacuation of Richmond), in which all of the dies, rolls, and plates of the second issue engraved and prepared at Richmond were destroyed. Those on hand at the department at the time of the fire were nearly exhausted when the final collapse of the Confederacy took place.

OUR "LOCAL" STAMPS.

BY S. A. T.

(Continued from page 3.)

The sequel to our narrative opens in the year of our Lord 1862, at a period when peace and prosperity had given place to war and confusion, and the noisy bustle of commerce had given way to the martial notes of the drum and the serried tramp of armed men. With the war had come greenbacks and scrip and Confederate bonds and—and Timbrophy, for a certain itinerant vender of coins, whose headquarters was a board attached to the railing of the City-Hall Park of New York, had introduced it by "crucifying" sundry Nova Scotian and other stamps, and for which he just asked the most he could get, which was any amount from twenty-five cents upwards.

The trade in New York at that time consisted properly of three individuals only, one of whom kept an office. The mythical English "gentleman" (the legend regarding whose career recently appeared in one of our cotemporaries) had not yet come over, and the refulgent lustre of his aristocratic presence had not yet spread the halo of its glory over the timbrophilic circles of benighted Gotham, and, we may add in this same connection, that the whole story told by our confrere regarding that same mysterious nobleman, and how he placed himself at the head of stamp

affairs in New York &c., is simply a very pretty fable, very innocent in its way, but positively absurd, as no English or other foreign "gentleman" ever had any prominence either at the head or the tail of stamp-collecting matters, either in New York or any where else on this continent, and this statement is made from a strict historical knowledge of the matter. But to our story. There was in New York in those days two dealers with whom our narrative has to do. We shall briefly designate them as Mr. A and Mr. B. Mr. A was a dealer, and, if he had a weakness, it was for rare and curious local stamps, the which he possessed in great variety, and for which he *sometimes* obtained very fancy prices. The success of Mr. A in this particular line was of course a subject of comment among his commercial brethren, and as there is in every community sundry objectionable persons who are ever ready to slander their neighbors, so there was in the timbrophilic circles of those dark ages various sceptical persons, who used to darkly hint at matters in connection with Mr. A's trade, the nature of which remarks, however, having a wholesome regard for the laws of libel, it is deemed by the writer to be inexpedient to insert. Suffice it to say that Mr. B was one of those who, as he expressed it, put little faith in Mr. A.

Well, one day Mr. B was called upon by a sturdy Teutonic grocer from the eastern side of the city, who had heard of timbrophily, and who produced from a faded envelope the sum of five dollars, represented by sheets containing in all 250 Essex Letter Express Stamps, the results of a speculation made some five years ago by the aforesaid grocer, but which speculation had been a signally disastrous one, for reasons already known to our readers.

The unfortunate speculator in Essex Express Stamps was brief in his remarks, he merely said to Mr. B—"You see dem tings,

now, how mooch you gives me for dem." Mr. B carefully closed one eye and replied, but it is none of the writer's business, nor, yet, of yours, dear reader, to enquire how much Mr. B paid that grocer. Let it be sufficient to add that his offer was at once accepted, and, further, that our Teutonic fellow citizen, being highly gratified at finding such a liberal purchaser, did, in the fulness of his heart, express himself as willing to "stand der lager" on the strength of the bargain, which is a New York slang phrase for an invitation to smile, but which social offer Mr. B, being like the writer a rigid disciple of Father Mathew, and remembering that the seductive fluid yclept "lager" contained some six per cent of pure alcohol, felt obliged to decline, whereupon the sturdy German shrugged his shoulders, and went on his way rejoicing.

To be continued.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

MEXICO.—The half real, black on buff, is recalled into service. We also learn of an entirely new series of adhesives, which are described as being very poorly engraved. The centre is occupied by a full-face portrait inside of a lined circle. "The face," says the *Magazine*, "is that of a middle-aged man, and has a pleasing, intelligent expression, which is enhanced by a high and well-formed forehead. The upper margin contains the word MEXICO, the lower, the value,—in the stamp before us, 50 CENT. The impression of this value is black on yellow; and the perforations which surround the stamp are probably the finest specimens of the perfect kind,—that in which distinct, circular holes are punched out."

The values so far known are as follows:—

6 cent,	black on buff.
12 "	" green.
25 "	blue on flesh.
50 "	black on yellow.
100 "	black on fawn.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—We

transcribe the following from *The Philatelist*.

"Last month we alluded to the employment of the superseded Prussian envelopes under a new guise. We are now in a position to give an ample description thereof. The original eagle is hid from view by a 1 groschen or gr. adhesive stuck over it; and with the words *NORDDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK* in semi-relief grey letters, thirty times repeated lengthwise in two parallel lines, within a rectangle with rounded corners, having a Greek-patterned framework.

We understand that not only the defunct Prussian envelopes but those of Saxony, Brunswick, Lubeck, and perhaps Mecklenburg-Strelitz are subjected to a similar transformation. Our Belgian contemporary is very jocose on the subject, remarking that the city of Hamburg and the duchies of Oldenburg and Mecklenburg-Schwerin can not profit by this luminous idea of M. Bismark, the Prussian post-master General, because the new adhesives being much smaller than the old envelope stamps can not properly cover them over. He suggests, therefore, that three of the 1-3 groschen individuals might be employed for the purpose, and thus further utilize the economy. He concludes with the calculation that the net gain to the mighty Prussian monarchy will be no less than 1200 francs, or £48."

BRUNSWICK.—We omitted to state last month that we had received a new 4-4th Brunswick stamp. It is printed in brown on white paper, and neither gummed or perforated. The die is a little larger than the old one. It is still to be known what it was issued for. Probably some of our German readers can tell us.

PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.—We are informed by Asst. P.M.-Gen. McLeod that the "Department has ordered a new postage stamp to correspond to four-pence currency, which will be ready in the course of a few weeks."



BADEN.—We annex an engraving of the new one kreuzer noticed in our last. By some mistake, the engraver put on the right the word *POSTVEREIN* instead

of *FREIMARKE*; otherwise, it is a faithful copy. The seven kreuzer is printed in blue.

PARAGUAY.—We have been shown two specimens of the stamp described in No. 8 of the *MERCURY*, printed in green with a large figure 10 across the face. We are inclined to doubt the genuineness of these stamps, and have taken the steps to procure official evidence either for or against them, which will set this matter at rest for ever.

The same may be said of the Ecuador 12 reales, and some of the Bolivia old issue.

THE SHANGHAI STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR OF *The Philatelist*.

(Continued from page 8.)

Shanghai labels. One, which is rather a discrepancy than an error, is that two horizontal lines are substituted for the character denoting the word *LIANG* on the 2 candareens stamp. It will be noticed that one horizontal line is seen on the 1c., and 3 on the 3c., which would lead one to wonder why the two lines were not originally on the 2c. There are, perhaps, distinct names as well as characters for the figure and for the word, inasmuch as we find *LIANG* given for the interpretation of the complicated, and *UHR* for that of the simple double-line, character.

A more decided error is the substitution of the character for *T'SIEN* (mace), in lieu of *FUN* (candareen) in the earliest specimens of the 4c. stamp. A further variety is noteworthy in some of the 3 candareens, the Arab figure being diversely formed. This discrepancy has not been observed, as far as we are aware, in those of the same value where the singular is employed.

The second emission had no longer a reign than their predecessors, having been speedily supplanted in their turn by the current set, four also in number, and like the defunct ones, from the atelier of Messrs. Nissen and Parker, the makers, we believe, of the elegant Nevis and the new Orange-River stamps.

Cents were substituted for candareens in the second; but the original denomination was restored in the third emission. A correspondent in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* writes that two kinds of cents are current at Shanghai: the tael cent or candareen, of which 100 = 1 tael or 6s. 3d.; and the dollar cent, equivalent to that of Hong Kong, or the hundredth part of 4s. 6d.

Much more information could be gleaned on these stamps, but we fear to weary our readers with dry details, and proceed to give a tabular view of the stamps and their varieties, as far as we have fallen in with them ocularly or aurally. There are probably others equally noteworthy; but we think there are enough here to rile the Pendragonites to their antagonists' hearts' content. It may be well to add that previously to the appearance of the 1st emission, a set of forgeries, 3c. blue, 5c. red, 10c. yellow, had been fabricated. The concoctor must have had an inkling of the proposed emission, and concluded that it would be mistaken for the realities, and consequently sold to advantage, at the first certain news of an official issue. To return from this digression, and proceed to our table.

FIRST ISSUE, 1865.

- 1 candareen . . . blue; Mahe, Moens; own coll.
- " . . . deep blue; Mahe, own coll.
- " . . . azure; Mahe, Moens, own coll.
- " . . . pale blue; Mahe.
- " . . . gummed; Stampede.
- 2 candareen . . . black; Mahe, Moens, own coll.
- 3 candareen . . . deep brown; Mahe, Moens.
- " . . . on toned paper; own coll.
- 4 candareen . . . yellow; Mahe, Moens.
- " . . . error noted above; Stampede.
- " . . . gummed; own coll.
- 8 candareen . . . dark green; Mahe, Moens, own coll.
- " . . . gummed; own coll.
- 16 candareen . . . vermil'n-red; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

All these are impressed on very thin, plain paper. The following are on laid paper:—

- 1 candareen blue.
- 2 candareen black.
- 4 candareen yellow.

The following are also on plain, thin paper, but have the word of value in the plural:—

- 2 candareens . . . black; Mahe, Moens, own coll. (value in word.)

2 candareens . . . greenish-black; Mahe, Moens (value in figures), own coll.

3 candareens . . . dark-brown, Arabic figure well formed; Mahe.

" . . . brown; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . dark and light brown, Arabic figure loosely formed; Mahe.

" . . . brown; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . gummed; own coll.

4 candareens . . . yellow; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . one of the characters repeated by error; Moens.

6 candareens . . . brown; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . orange-red; publisher of the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

8 candareens . . . green; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

12 candareens . . . brown; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . pale brown; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . deep brown; Mahe.

16 candareens . . . pale vermillion-red; Mahe, Moens, own coll.

" . . . dull vermillion-red; Mahe, own coll.

Of these marked variations in paper, color, &c., we would ask the Pendragon school which it would eliminate. Would it reject the gummed specimens? Those on laid paper? One of the distinct shades of hue among the brown, blue, or red stamps? The well formed or the loose Arabic 3? The 2c. with double bar, or that with the character? Or, finally, the singulars or the plurals? We pause for a reply.

SECOND ISSUE, 1866.

- 2 cents . . . pink Moens, own coll.
- " . . . pale pink . . . Moens, own coll.
- 4 cents . . . lilac Moens, own coll.
- " . . . pale lilac . . . Moens, own coll.
- " . . . lilac-grey . . . Moens, own coll.
- 8 cents . . . blue Moens.
- " . . . light blue . . . Moens, own coll.
- 16 cents . . . green Moens, own coll.
- " . . . yellow-green . . . Moens, own coll.

These, as well as the succeeding, are printed in color, on plain, thick, white, unwatermarked paper, and perforated,—the 3rd issue rather more closely so than the 2nd.

THIRD ISSUE, 1866.

- 1 candareen . . . brown.
- 3 candareen . . . yellow.
- 6 candareen . . . sea-green.
- 12 candareen . . . olive.

We may appropriately conclude with a little geographical matter for the benefit of our junior readers. Shanghai, the capital of a district, was founded so long ago as the 8th century; fortified in 1552; and received its present name about 1074. It is a walled

town, rather more than three miles in circumference, in the district of Sung Kiang Foo, in the province of Kiang Soo. The port is the seat of enormous traffic, employing 600 vessels, and turning over about 32 millions sterling per annum. It was opened to the English on the 29th August, 1842; the advantage extended to the French September 10th of the following year; and to all other foreign powers on the 8th of October ensuing. Since the admission of foreigners, the town has become the residence of a superintendent called Tao Tai, who manages the province of Soong Kiang Foo, and the two neighboring ones. A large number of European and American commercial houses is established at Shanghai; there are, also, European and Chinese banks; and many agencies of fire and maritime insurance companies.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

MORLEY REDIVIVUS.

The editor of our British cotemporary, the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, is a gentleman of rare perception and keen discrimination. When matters timbrophilic become dim and misty and confused, he does not find occasion to wipe his spectacles,—not he; he sees his way clearly, and detects imposition the moment it appears with as much precision as the Treasury officials will detect a spurious greenback.

An apt illustration of his perceptive abilities was given in a recent number, where he exploded the fictitious nonsense which appeared in the *Journal of Philately*, purporting to be a letter from "Dr. Morley, LL.D.," from Corrientes, in South America, and which Dr. Morley our readers are of course aware is an entirely mythological personage, having no existence either on the earth or in the waters under the earth. Well, the astute and wily editor showed by a very simple calculation that a letter could not have been received

from any person in Corrientes by reason of the time requisite to communicate with that far-off region; and as the *Journal of Philately* mendaciously stated in reply that the Rev. Morley left New York in the steamer South America on the 23rd day of May last, and further explained the matter with the paradoxical idea that "we Americans are a very fast people, you know," we came to the conclusion that the Rev. Morley was something of a walkist,—in fact, judging from the time made by the eminent divine, we felt inclined to back him against Edward Payson Weston, Bonner's horse Dexter, or the Camden and Amboy Railroad, with six hours start.

However, as the *Journal* stated that Morley sailed in the steamer South America on the 23rd of May last, we caused to be addressed to the agent of that steamer a note enquiring whether the statement was correct, to which we received the following concise reply:—

5 Bowling Green,
New York, Nov. 24, 1868.

Dear Sir, I am unable to find out that Dr. Morley was a passenger by "South America." The statement is not correct.

Yours truly,
W. R. GARRISON,
Per G. W. Peck.

And now let Morley rest. One of two things is certain,—either that Reverend man was a "stowaway" or else the gifted manager of the *Journal* made a little error or blunder,—not a lie by any means,—just a little blunder, that's all.

POST-MASTER-GENERAL RANDALL'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Post-Master-General Randall has been busily engaged for some days past in preparing his annual report. This important document is not finished, but some statistics from the numerous tabular statements contained in the report will prove interesting. For the fiscal year ending June 4th, 1865, 142,340 miles were used for mail service, while there was used in the active running 57,993,694 miles. For the year ending June 30th, 1868, there were 216,928 service miles, and 84,224,325 running miles. This shows an

increase of 35 per cent in the service and running miles in the year. Since 1865 Congress has added 1267 new mail routes, besides, all the Southern mail routes have been revived, which makes an addition of 48,774 lineal miles of mail route added to the labor and expense of the department in less than eighteen months. The following table will partly show how the expenditures exceed the receipts, the statement being for carrying the mails only, viz.:—

California,	\$641,468	\$398,392
Kansas,	551,566	99,692
Nevada,	241,180	30,145
Nebraska,	170,492	54,494
Utah Territory,	453,798	16,068
New Mexico,	264,382	264
Washington Territory,	110,144	6,364
Arizona,	125,697	1,968
Idaho Territory,	14,700	9,482
Montana Territory,	33,650	16,611
Oregon,	363,693	30,110
Texas,	387,879	145,916

Add to this the revenue of Southern States not named, and the total deficit foots up over 3,000,000 of dollars for the past year. The salaries of post-masters and many other expenses are not included. In all the larger cities letter carriers are employed, and this has cost \$995,000 for the past year. No revenue is received from this source. None of the sea service returns any revenue to the Department. China, Brazil, Sandwich Islands, and other routes cost this year some \$725,000 more than was received. The horse service costs from 33 to 40 per cent more now, on account of the difference between gold and currency, while the rates for letters are the same.

Post-Master Dennison's report for June, 1866, submitted by Governor Randall, his successor, showed a deficiency of \$965,093. Governor Randall's report for 1867 also showed a deficiency, and this report for 1868 will show a deficiency of \$790,000, which has to be provided for by special appropriation. The Post-Master-General is preparing an elaborate report in reference to the ocean service, and extending the mail facilities to every corner of the land, while he also recommends many reforms in the general routine of post-office business. He recommends the establishment of a thorough telegraph system in all the principal post-offices throughout the

country, alleging that it will secure a revenue and save the people's money. A letter of fifteen or twenty words can be sent from Washington to New York and delivered there as a letter with a postage stamp upon the envelope at a cost to the writer of the despatch letter of three cents for the stamp and ten cents for the message. Full average rates will be presented in the report. These messages are to be delivered by the letter carriers, thus securing prompt and correct delivery.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Montrose, Oct. 26, 1868.

F. TRIFET:

Dear Sir, Enclosed please find \$2.50, and please send me THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY for an other year; also one to George A. Smith, Box 120, Montrose, Pa. I may be able to get an other subscriber; but the stamp collectors here think they can get along without it; but if I could get them to take it *once*, they would *think* different. I would not miss taking THE MERCURY for twice the amount it costs, for it is a *good* paper, and a *great* help to stamp collectors.

F. A. D.

Box 157, Montrose, Pa.

Dear Sir, I received the first number of the second volume of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY about two weeks ago, and I think that it is the best paper I have ever seen.

Yours truly,

Towanda, Pa., Nov. 22, 1868.)

J. D. M.

F. TRIFET, Esq., Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir, I only received first number of MERCURY last Saturday, and allow me to tell you that your valuable paper is a great benefit for me.

Yours truly,

London, Nov. 9, 1868.)

LOUIS WATERMAN.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. P., Philadelphia, Pa.—We shall be happy to pick out the forgeries from your collection, if you will show it to us.

TIMBROPHILIST.—All the back numbers of THE MERCURY can be had of our publisher.

X. Y. Z.—Revenue stamps should not be put in a collection of *postage stamps*, though they will do in a collection of stamps.

W. P., Davenport, Iowa.—The English "V.R." stamp is not the scarcer stamp known, the first issue of British Guiana and some of the Buenos Ayres of the steamship series being much scarcer.

A. H. W., Rome, N.Y.—The first or "1851" issue of the United States stamps were issued as follows: 1 cent (Franklin), 3 cents, and 12 cents (Washington), in 1851, the 10 (Washington), in 1855, the 5 (Jefferson), in 1856, and the 24 (Washington), 30 (Franklin), and 90 cents (Jackson), in 1860.

TIMBROPHILIC REVIEW OF THE
YEAR 1868.

"We think that we have given above an account of all the important events in "Philately" that have taken place during the last twelve months, therefore all we have to do is to bid our readers an affectionate farewell, until we greet them again under the above heading."—MERCURY for January, 1868.

Little did we think when we wrote the above, one year ago, that our prophecy (?) would come true. For several years past various persons have established timbrophilic magazines in this country; but what has been their fate? after a short but prosperous (?) existence they all failed, and that for want of support, both in subscribers and contributors—for the last is *necessary* to a paper of this class; for a few persons cannot always find materials for articles: it is only by collectors *studying* their stamps *carefully*, making known their discoveries to their brother collectors, that good original articles can be written. With the recollection of the fate of our predecessors in view, we confess we did not start this magazine with a very bright prospect; but our hopes were soon raised by the liberal manner in which subscriptions poured in, and we are happy to say that out of the long list of our former subscribers *all but twenty-seven* have already renewed their subscriptions, as we are informed by our publisher. This is the best proof that the American collectors are no slower to recognize the merits of a good magazine than they are to appreciate anything else. Having thus begun, wrongly, we suppose, by ourselves, we will proceed, after once more calling the attention of our readers to the fact that we will spare no pains to make the MERCURY an A 1 magazine, and inviting all amateurs to contribute to its columns, to give the other items, of interest to collectors, that have happened during the year.

NEW STAMP-ISSUING COUNTRIES.

There are not many, as we can only count

six, one of them being doubtful. They are as follows: Orange Free State, Azores, Sarawak, Madeira, Paraguay (doubtful), and the Dominion of Canada, representing in all thirty-one stamps.

COMPLETE SETS OF NEW STAMPS

have been issued by Bolivia, Chili, Mexico, Cuba, North German Confederation, Straits Settlement, and Wurtemberg, besides which the Dresden Express Company and the Russian Levant Post furnish us with sets. Of the

COUNTRIES HAVING ISSUED STAMPS

during the year, we have many, and scattered all over the globe. Among them we find Baden, Bavaria, France, Switzerland, and Norway, in Europe; Ceylon and India, in Asia; St. Helena, in Africa; New Granada, British Columbia, and Ecuador (?), in America; and Victoria and New South Wales in Oceania.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

We will begin at home, and enumerate them in the order published.

The Coin and Stamp Journal, Meriden.

The American Journal of Philately, New York.

A descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign Postage Stamps, Boston.

Boston Stamp Album, Boston.

Scott's American Album, New York.

A descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign Postage Stamps, New York.

Price List of Postage Stamps, Quebec.

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

Alfred Smith & Co.'s Descriptive Price Catalogue.

Catalogue Prix-Courant de Timbres-Postes.

Timbres d'Offices Americaines.

Timbres-Poste Album du Collectionneur.

Catalogue Descriptif.

The Permanent Postage-Stamp Album.

The "Mulready" series of Stamp Albums, and other works which escape our memory.

DEALERS AND COLLECTORS

are now to be found almost everywhere, including Australia, North and South America, Africa, India, &c., and as the supply is a natural consequence that there is a demand for our favorites, we are bound to take it for granted that stamp collecting is becoming every day more and more of a science; and we think the day is not far distant when we shall find such words as "timbrophilist" and "timbrophilic" in the dictionary.

What more can we say? Nothing. Yes, stop! We had forgotten it; for we have so much to do to please our readers that something *will* escape our memory.

We are now in that part of the year when friends meet to greet each other, and wish happiness and prosperity to each other. We would like to see *all* our friends (plural) and our foe (singular) together, to express to them our gratitude for their help and encouragement in our endeavor to establish a good magazine on this continent; but, as that is impossible, we shall have to express our thanks in a very poor way, viz.: in pen and ink, or rather *type* and ink; and assure them that it is none the less sincere for not being verbal.

To our subscribers and advertisers for their patronage, to our contributors and correspondents for their articles and information, to our cotemporaries for their kind notices in every instance but one, and to the "but one" as well; to the publisher, printer, engraver, &c., for their efforts in making the *MERCURY* a good *reading* paper, a good *looking* paper, and a well-*illustrated* paper; and to all our other friends and unknown foes we tender our sincere gratitude and thanks, and wish them, with all our heart, a *merry Christmas* and a *happy New Year*.

VICTORIA OFFICIAL STAMPS.

BY AMERICUS.

This country adds to her already long list of varieties by the emission of a set of official

stamps for the use of the government officers of the Province. The stamps for the different officers do not differ in the design, except that each bears the title of office of the respective officers by whom they are used. Of these stamps I have specimens of those used by the

Attorney General,
Treasurer,
Chief Secretary (two varieties.—Ed.),
Post-Master-General,
Minister of Justice,
Commissioner of Railways,
Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey.

(We can add to this from our own experience the following:—

Minister of Mines,
Commissioner of Trades and Customs,
Col. Com. of Volunteers,
Gov. of Public Works.—Ed.)

All these were printed in blue ink on blue and on white envelopes, and have the appearance of having been printed with a hand-stamp.

I suppose there are other varieties, that is, those used by other officers, though only having seen those varieties named. The stamp is printed in the upper right-hand corner of the envelope, and in the center of the envelope, near the top, is printed the inscription ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE. The stamps are cancelled at the Post-Office in the same manner as the ordinary stamps.

There also exists a smaller stamp, printed in black upon white, and blue wrappers, and which is used to enclose the Victoria Government Gazette, and carries it from the office of the government printer (John Ferres) to the various government officers. If sent anywhere else, a proper stamp is required, as these stamps only carry them to said officers. The wrappers also bear the same inscription with the addition of VICTORIA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, and are likewise cancelled at the Post-Office in the ordinary way.

OUR "LOCAL" STAMPS.

BY S. A. T.

(Continued from page 11.)

Having become the fortunate possessor of the stamps in question, Mr. B for some short space held communion with himself, and a bright idea seemed to strike him. Now, the aforesaid Essex Express Stamps in their primitive condition had for a vignette a ship under sail. Mr. B detached a single specimen from the sheet, and close to the bottom of the vignette thereof he added with a pen, in imitation of print, the letters SX; he, also, added a streamer to the top of the mizen-mast of the ship in the same manner. And, then, he called to him a messenger, in the shape of an errand boy, whom he could trust, and giving him the (*improved*) copy above alluded to, dispatched him to the office of Mr. A, with directions to dispose of it and sundry other local stamps for the best price he could obtain, and the messenger executed his commission with speed and accuracy. Then Mr. B smiled again, and, like Wilkins Micawber, he waited for something to turn up,—and something did turn up, and that rapidly, for, in less than three days afterwards, Mr. A imparted to the timbrophilic world the pleasing information that he had become the possessor of a limited number of rare and curious and *everywise genuine* Essex Letter Express Stamps, the design being a ship under sail with the letters SX in the lower margin of the vignette, and with streamer attached to the mizen-mast of the ship, being exactly identical with the *improved* copy which Mr. B had furnished him with three days before.

Of course the collectors and dealers of that day saw through the little game at once, and got a tolerable idea of the value of rare locals and their real or imaginary value.

Mr. A tried to deny the fact, but the evidence was too powerfully against him, and, as a result, the value of Essex Stamps, with

the letters SX thereon, fell to several degrees below par.

To be continued.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

UNITED STATES.—We have been favored by Mr. Zevery, 3rd Assistant Post-Master-General, with a full description, as far as completed, of our new issue, and take this occasion to thank him for the great pains he must have taken to give us the minutiae of the various stamps. The designs will be as follows:—

One Cent.—Head of Franklin, looking to the left, surrounded by a circle, U.S. POSTAGE at top, ONE CENT at bottom, with the numeral 1 between the words. Color, Roman ochre.

Two Cts.—Post horse and rider, surrounded by ornamental scroll work, UNITED STATES POSTAGE at top, TWO CENTS at bottom, with numeral between the words. Color, light bronze.

Three Cents.—Locomotive surrounded by scroll work, UNITED STATES POSTAGE at top, THREE CENTS at bottom, with numeral between. Color, imperial ultramarine.

Six Cents.—Head of Washington, three-quarter face, looking to right; frame square; U.S. in upper left and right corners respectively. Numeral, 6 in lower corners, the word POSTAGE in upper bar of frame, FIVE CENTS in lower, and UNITED STATES on either side. Color, imperial ultramarine.

Ten Cents.—Eagle and shield. This design is not yet completed. The color will be orange.

Twelve Cents.—Ocean steamship surrounded by ornamental and scroll work, UNITED STATES POSTAGE at top, TWELVE CENTS at bottom, with numeral between. Color, Milori green.

Fifteen Cents.—Landing of Columbus. Design not yet completed. Colors not yet adopted.

Twenty-Four Cents.—Declaration of Inde-

pendence. Ornamental and scroll work at top and bottom; U.S. surrounded by a circle at upper left and right corners respectively; the word POSTAGE between the two; TWENTY-FOUR CENTS in scroll at bottom, with numeral underneath. Colors, the picture purple-lake, and the scroll and ornamental work light Milori green.

Thirty Cents.—Same design as for the ten cent. Colors, Prussian blue and pale India red.

Ninety Cents.—Head of Lincoln in an oval, three-quarter face looking to right, surrounded by scroll and ornamental work; numerals 90 in each of the upper corners; U.S. POSTAGE at top of oval; NINETY CENTS in scroll at lower left and right corners of oval respectively; U.S. at lower left and right corners of stamps respectively.

The one, two, three, six, and twelve cent stamps will be about three-quarters of an inch square; the fifteen, twenty-four, and ninety cents about seven-eighths of an inch square. The ten and thirty cents, though not determined on, will doubtless be of the same size as the last mentioned.

They will no doubt be printed on white, unwatermarked paper, of course be perforated, and issued in February.

The designs for stamped envelopes are not yet fully completed, but we have the promise from Mr. Zeverly of a description of them as soon as the colors shall be selected, and the designs finished.

MEXICO.—Since our last, we have seen a complete (?) set of the new issue described in our last, which consisted of all the varieties then described, with the addition of a 100 centavos, brown on fawn. As our readers will see by the above engraving, the Mexican officials are striving hard to get from bad to worse; and we believe that they can stop and rest on



their labors, as it would be hard to get up a homelier design than they have adopted.

BADEN.—A new 3 kreuzer stamp, similar in design to the 1 and 7 lately emitted, has been issued.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—In our "extra" we noticed three new stamps. We will now describe them. The 3 kreuzer stamp is now printed upon envelopes. The Confederation have also issued two stamps, viz.:—

1-3 grochen, green.

1 kreuzer, green.

These are printed upon bands of paper 16 x 2½ inches, and have not the inscription printed across as the envelopes have.

BELGIUM.—Will have a set of envelopes, —but, when? Echo answers "when?"

CEYLON.—This Colony has added two envelopes to her already beautiful set. They are

6d. violet-brown on blue.

10d. brick-red on blue.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Our New York friend, the *Journal* chronicles the appearance of a stamp for this Colony; and takes great pains to state to its readers that "faithful to the promise given in our first number of always being the first to herald the advent of any postage stamps issued on this side of the Atlantic, we take pleasure in introducing to our readers several new stamps—that will shortly be adopted by our near neighbors." Now, this is not fair; for being in the city where they are mostly made, they ought to get the information first, and not brag about it so much. To show our brother editor's zeal to be "the first to herald," we will merely state that during the past year he has described the Bolivia, Newfoundland, Peruvian, &c. stamps in advance of us, all of which, with but one exception, were manufactured under his very nose, so to say, while he leaves the Bavarian, Baden, Wurtemberg, Prince Edward's Island, Switzerland, &c., all made

far away from America, for our unworthy self to chronicle. "Honor to whom honor is due," say we. But "retourneous a nos moutons." The stamp in question is of the value of one cent, printed in purple, and similar in design to the New Brunswick 17 cents.

WURTEMBERG.—A new series is in preparation. The values and colors are as far as they have been seen:—

1 kreuzer, green.

3 kreuzer, rose.

7 kreuzer, blue.

Now for a rarity. *Le Timbrophilie* notices a 3 kreuzer lilac as being a misprint, caused by the printer mixing too much blue in mixing the color. Now, we do not understand much about colors; but it strikes us as if it was not necessary to mix rose out of blue. This paper is always so well informed since the Moresnet affair that we should not like to see it err even for once; but we have seen German Confederation 1-4 stamps changed to rose, Java stamps changed to lilac, &c.; and if the Java stamp will change to lilac, why should the Wurtemberg one refuse to do the same. We pause for a reply.

ROUMANIA.—This country will shortly produce three new values, viz.: 10, 25, and 50 bani.

SAXONY.—DRESDEN.—The Express Company has issued its last set of envelopes, printed upon yellow paper.

ROMAN STATES.—The 40 and 80c. are now perforated. This completes the series.

NEW GRANADA.—An other set (?) We have received a new stamp for this country. In the center are the arms inside of a broken oval, over which is ESTADOS UNIDOS, beneath DE COLUMBIA. In an other band around this is at top CORREOS NALES, at bottom DIES CENTAVOS, with Roman numeral X in each corner. It is printed in lilac, on white, wove paper, and is not perforated. We are informed that there are other values.

REVIEW OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The New York Journal of Philately, New York: the Philatelic Society.

The art of reducing lying to a science is one to be attained by long practice, careful rehearsal, and consummate study. Once properly attained, however, it becomes so thoroughly incorporated in the system of the student that it becomes a second nature, and the natural result is that it is much easier for him to lie than to tell the truth, and, as a rule of necessity, he never tells the truth where a lie will answer; and if the truth does occasionally slip out, it may safely be set down as the result of an accident.

The junior editor of the *Journal of Philately* is evidently laboring hard to attain an eminence as a "lyist" of the first water; and, if he makes as rapid progress in the future as he has hitherto, we have no reasonable doubt but that he will ere long attain the topmost round on the ladder of falsification.

His last attempt is worthy of him, being a statement that our description of the Egyptian stamps, given in the first number of this volume, was, as he describes it, "reprinted from the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine*." To this audacious statement we have only to reply that we do not cull our foreign correspondence from the *Cyclopedia*, as he certainly has done, in one case at least, and beg to add that the facts in the matter were furnished us in the form of a letter from A. Morosini, a gentleman residing in Alexandria in Egypt, and already tolerably well known in timbrophilic circles, both in Europe and America. Any person comparing the descriptive account we gave with that given in the *Stamp-Collector's Magazine* will notice many differences, especially in the names of the towns issuing official stamps, a great many of which will not be found in the descriptive account given by the *Magazine* at all, showing conclusively that our account thereof was not a "reprint," as he pleases to call it.

We would also remark that Mr. Morosini is not a myth like "Dr. Morley," Bungler, and the other creatures of the *Journal's* imagination, but is a gentleman doubtless better known as a timbrophilist than any member of the chimerical N.Y. P.S., whereof the *Journal* is the characteristic mouthpiece; and we would further add that we have concluded our notice of the *Journal* and Society aforesaid henceforth and forever.

FORGERY OF THE V.R. STAMP.

Stamp-Collector's Magazine.

We have recently received several copies of a falsification of the V.R., executed with the greatest skill and art, and so perfect in appearance that we can truly call them the most dangerous forgery with which we are acquainted. The following, among other minute discrepancies which appear on a careful comparison of these falsities with a genuine stamp, may help our readers to detect the new impostors. We cheerfully bear our part in nailing the convicted vermin to the barn door, and trust that none of our friends may be unwary enough to be duped by this last cheat.

The first and great difference which strikes one is the strong dissimilarity in the cast of countenance. Every collector can verify this by comparison with a common black penny stamp. In the forgery, the profile is remarkably different in expression. The nose of our gracious sovereign is too pinched up and pointed. It is not easy to precisely describe in words how the expression is made so unlike that of the stamp, but the slightest comparison will prove the fact, and at the nostril especially the variation of *contour* may be seen.

The light in the center of the cut of the neck is too strongly marked, and is carried too far up the neck.

The center plait of the curl of hair behind the head differs in its folds.

Chiefly, however, in the ground work, where the dots of white are too plain and large, and in the interlaced borderings, which are much too clear and distinct, the more prominent points of difference lie; also, the lettering is too thin and weak, and the lower curve of the R much too widely extended.

The watermark has, however, presented the greatest difficulty. In some cases a sort of faintish affair, bearing some little likeness to the crown, but not distinct or traceable in all its outline, is impressed in the paper, how we know not; but this, though apparently enough to satisfy a cursory observer, is very easily seen through on a more careful inspection. The failure to have a clear definite crown is fatal to any specimen.

In some other cases, the mark of the small crown is produced on the paper, probably by some application of acid. This leaves a white outline, but no one need be deceived, for, on holding the stamp to the light, there is nothing which has gone below the surface: the apparent watermark is a mere surface sham.

Besides this, the outline of the side curves of the crown is much too thick. We think we have now stated enough to put our friends on their guard.

The new comers are very carefully printed on pure white paper, and look most clean, desirable specimens.

In conclusion, we would warn all searchers after this rarity to mistrust those which come from Leipzig, whence this new crop of fraudulent representatives has its origin.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

STATISTICS FROM THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT for 1867-8. The expense during the year amounted to \$16,292,600.80, the expenditures to \$22,730,592.65, showing an excess of expenditures of \$6,437,991.85. During the year the following stamps and stamped envelopes were issued:—

383,310,500 stamps, valued at \$11,736,264	
160,000 period. sps. "	14,750
44,552,300 plain envel. "	1,285,218
25,469,750 print'd "	759,520
3,372,600 newsp. wrap's, "	67,372

456,865,150	total	\$13,863,124
-------------	-------	--------------

This is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per centum over last year's issue.

There are 26,841 post-offices in operation.

The whole number of "dead letters" of all classes received during the year, by actual count, was 4,162,144, being 144,364 less than *estimated* last year. Of these letters 3,995,066 were domestic letters, 167,078 were foreign, and were returned unopened to the countries where they originated, 18,340 contained \$95,169.52, in sums of one dollar and upwards, all of which, excepting 2124, containing \$7,862.36, were delivered to owners. The balance contained valuables amounting to over \$3,000,000.

THE KING OF ESSAYS.

To the Editor of THE PHILATELIST:

DEAR SIR, The number of designs proposed by various individuals, when the penny postage scheme was first mooted, being estimated at about three thousand, anything connected with the design which was eventually adopted must be interesting. Owing to one of those pieces of good fortune which now and again happens to a collector in search of the valuable, a pair of essays from which our "penny postage" stamp was taken have been brought to light. They are side by side on one piece of card-board, impressed in black, and have been for many years in the hands of a well-known picture dealer of London, who had them framed and glazed, being given to him by the late Mr. Charles Heath, who engraved them. We will distinguish them as Nos. 1 and 2, and proceed to give a verbal description of their wonders.

No. 1 represents the 1p. stamp now in use as it would be with the top and bottom inscriptions cut off, *i.e.*, we only have the Queen's head with the background, and no corners. The background is exactly like the stamp in present use; and the head, which is quite finished and finely engraved, is nearly similar,

only it is a little wider in the head, the outlines from top of crown to the end of the bust are straighter, and the back hair is surrounded by a white line. On the die, before printing off the essay, the engraver has made an intended alteration, consisting of fine dotted lines from the top of the crown to the bottom of the bust, thereby reducing the width of the head and bust, making the outlines more curved, and, consequently, more elegant.

No. 2 shows us the head as altered in No. 1, but without the white line surrounding the black, the head being, therefore, exactly like that on the 1p. and 2p. now in use. The background, however, is very different, being a very elaborately-engraved pattern. At the foot is engraved POSTAGE ONE PENNY, in capitals, and in one straight line.

The stamp finally adopted for the first adhesive used in England is taken from these two essays, the head of No. 2, with the background of No. 1, of course adding POSTAGE at top, ONE PENNY below, and a square in each angle. The first stamp in black had in top squares the letters V.R., the next having the Maltese cross, but both with variable letters in the lower squares. This pair, which may be justly termed the King of Essays, is in the hands of a well-known amateur residing near Torquay, and is supposed to be unique. A proof on India paper exists of No. 1, but with No. 2 head, and No. 2 exists on India paper (both in Mr. Hill's collection, I am told), but this No. 1 (with broader effigy, lines round back hair, and dotted marks of outlines engraved on the die for intended alteration) is quite unique, and No. 2 being on the same card-board, they form a matchless pair.

From information received from a thoroughly reliable source, the head on our stamps of 1p. and 2p. was originally engraved by Heath, the eminent engraver, in 1840. This head is introduced into the plates used in printing these two values, by a transferring process, but the lines were not found deep enough, and the plates, consequently, lasted no time, soon wearing out, so, about the beginning of 1855, a transferred impression from the head as originally engraved by Heath was placed in the hands of an engraver named Humphries, whose office it was to deepen the old lines, therefore producing a more durable head, but without inserting any new lines, or any new work of any kind. This deepened impression

has been used as the original ever since, all the plates for printing the stamps have been transfers from this deepened die, ever since the improvement has been effected.

I would not trouble you with an account of an essay, as a rule, but this being unique, and the father of postage stamps, has claims to attention not shared by any other I know of. I think I am right in terming it the King of Essays, as no other can approach it in value.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD L. PEMBERTON.

A MYSTERY SOLVED; WHAT BECOMES OF THE OLD POSTAGE STAMPS.—Thanks to a public appeal by Pastor Maurach in Livonia, we have at last learned what becomes of the old postage stamps, and to what end the thousands of aged and youthful collectors are in the habit of plaguing our lives out. It appears, then, that the Chinese have contracted the habit or passion of covering their umbrellas, and rooms, and houses—everything, in short,—with old European stamps, and they buy them by thousands and millions. The Rhenish mission, which has a station in China, collects these stamps, and sells them at three shillings the thousand. For the money so acquired, the mission educates such children as have been either exposed or sold as slaves by their unnatural Chinese parents.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A YANKEE POST-MASTER.—In the days of Andrew Jackson, Post-Master-General, Amos Kendall, wanting to know whereabouts the source of the Tombigbee River was, wrote for the required information to the post-master of a village on its course. "Sir," wrote the higher officer to the lower, "this department desires to know how far the Tombigbee River runs up. Respectfully, &c." The reply was brief, and read thus: "Sir, the Tombigbee River doesn't run up at all, it runs down. Very respectfully, &c." The Post-Master-General continued the correspondence in this style: "Sir, your appointment as post-master at— is revoked. You will turn over the funds, papers, &c. pertaining to your office to your successor. Respectfully, &c." The droll understrapper closed the correspondence with this parting shot: "Sir, the revenues for this office for the quarter ending Sept. 30 have been 95 cents; its expenditure, same period, for tallow candles and twine, was 105

dollars. I trust my successor is instructed to adjust the balance due to me. Most respectfully."—*Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONTRIBUTORS.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY:

SIR, we have in the United States many prominent timbrophilists who are capable of contributing to the columns of THE MERCURY, and it is all wrong that it is not done more. You have certainly established a good paper, and deserve the support of timbrophilists. Stamp collectors can be counted by thousands in America, and it is a crying shame if we can not support at least one magazine. Let our prominent collectors attend less to European institutions, and give their support to American works, and fulfil their actual duty. Encourage home industry, say I. Yours faithfully,

AMERICUS.

OUR MAGAZINE.

DEAR SIR, Enclosed please find \$1.00 for THE STAMP MERCURY. The reason that I have not sent before is that I have been away, and have just returned, and read the numbers which have arrived since I have been away with great pleasure, but was still more pleased to find that the Magazine was to be enlarged. I take *The Stamp-Collector's Magazine*, also, during the year, and though there is not so much reading in THE MERCURY as in it, I like it just as well, and consider THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY an honor to the timbrophilic press, and wish it every success.

Yours truly,
Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 10, 1868.) J. H. L.

DEAR SIR, * * * The December number of THE STAMP MERCURY has just arrived, and I am much pleased with it, and shall endeavor to induce others to take this really excellent paper. * * *

Yours truly,
Albany, N.Y., Dec. 14, 1868.) J. I. N.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. A. D., Montrose, Pa.—We ourselves collect the perforated and unperforated stamps, and should recommend others to do the same, but it is a mere matter of taste.

A. M., Alexandria.—Take notice of the article on page 21, and let us have the information asked for in ours of Nov. 10th, concerning the "Officials."

AMERICUS.—Thanks for letter and article. We hope others will follow your example; and give us their aid in improving THE MERCURY.

C. Van R., Amsterdam.—Yours of 14th received. We have not yet received any albums. Send them by mail.

S. S. & Co., Brighton.—We have also received yours of Nov. 11th. We can do nothing at present with your new album, as we have a large stock of four other kinds on hand. We have not received the Mulready yet.

F. S., Copenhagen.—We have not received any answer to ours of Nov. 3rd. Please answer it at once.

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POST-AGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

EDITORIAL REMARKS.

Have any of our readers ever undertaken a thing with the hope of success, but doubtful of that? Those who have will understand our feelings in introducing this elaborate treatise to the American timbrophilic world.

In Europe till 1865 watermarks in stamps were not considered as of any use to collectors. At that time this same work that we are now about to publish appeared as a serial in *Le Timbrophile* of Paris, and rather opened the eyes of timbrophilists in all parts of the world. Some of our readers will say "Of what use are watermarks to collectors?" To those we would answer a question by a question. Have you ever been victimised by a forged stamp? If they answer "yes," we would tell them that if they had studied watermarks, they would not have been in nine cases out of ten. This, if nothing else, speaks in behalf of watermarks. Take the Tuscany lions; how is it possible to tell the white from the blue paper issue? Simply by the watermarks: the blue paper has a crown, and the white lozenges for a watermark. You collect perforations, and come across a Ceylon stamp that is cut close, you reject it because you can not tell whether it has ever been perforated. Look through it, and if you find a crown with the letters CC under, you may know that it has been perforated. These are only a few things in favor of studying watermarks. When we say *study* we do not mean to *collect* them, as that is simply a matter of taste, and each collector can suit himself about that. Our publisher, as well as many prominent collectors of the land, collect them, and feel no worse, if no better, for doing so.

With these few remarks, we leave the balance of the work to the translator; and would call our readers' attention to the fact that if this subject does not suit some of them, that THE MERCURY is published to please all tastes, and that they will find on some other page something to them more interesting. When Dr. Magnus's article shall be completed, we shall give a supplementary article about the later watermarks.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

These papers first appeared in *Le Timbrophile*, from April to July of 1865. We can not disguise today all the omissions and mistakes which it then presented. Notwithstanding, as it was it was the most complete article on watermarks. For that reason did it obtain the honors of an English translation, which appeared in the *Stamp-Collectors' Magazine*, in 1866. When we decided to reproduce it, we thought that it should be put on a level with the timbrophilic science by correcting the mistakes that crept into it, and by adding the novelties that the stamp papers have placed before the notice of their readers, and those that have resulted from the works of various amateurs, and from our own enquiries. Our readers will thank us for these numerous additions.

April, 1867.

DR. M.

An other nicety! Is it not sufficient to distinguish perforated from unperforated stamps? those divided by the roulette from those perforated by the machine? the small from the large dentelations, &c.? Why not gummed from ungummed stamps? Such, or thereabouts, are the complaints and objections that the title of this article will not fail to bring forth. Yes, timbrophilist; but, if you take the pains of reading us, you will not fail to acknowledge the utility of our researches. You will find out that the studying

and collecting of these varieties are at least as interesting as that of essays, which often have no other merit than that of being rare, or fetching golden prices.

Is it not doing you a service to point to you a little-explored mine, which promises large productions? You shall judge of it.

DEFINITION. — The word watermark is applied to those letters or figures which appear on papers by means of wires placed on the form in making the paper. The same is said of these marks in the Dictionary of the Academy. It is useless to say that in this article we have only to deal with said marks.

These watermarks are generally employed by a very large number of governments in their stamped paper. They are to be found in the French stamped papers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The designs are of infinite variety. Their use is to augment the difficulties in counterfeiting, and to assign a date to the using of the paper. This is no doubt the first motive that induced the manufacturers of postage stamps to use them, for they are to be found in early issues of a great number of countries. Latterly it was found that the perfection of the work, and the small intrinsic value of the stamps, were much more serious obstacles to their being counterfeited. At present, besides Great Britain and her Colonies, but few countries employ watermarked paper.

HISTORY. — The study of watermarks has been neglected until within a short time. The early catalogues merely mention the various water-lines in papers, and the watermarks of the issues of 1855 and 1856 of Spain. The price catalogues that follow notice no others. Mr. Rondot, in the articles published by *Le Magazin Pittoresque*, correctly notices a certain number, but does not mention those of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, and of the Duchy of Brunswick. This question of watermarks is at present the order of the day among collectors. We know that Mr. Reg-

nard gave himself to this study, and that a *Catalogue de l'Amateur de Timbres-Postes*, which appeared at the time that this article was finished (March, 1865), contains the results of his inquiries. We had only heard of the work. All know that there exist in the papers of stamps stars, figures, or crowns as watermarks; but we know of no other work besides Mr. Regnard's which indicates on which stamps they are to be found. Moreover, we have seen some of the most interesting articles from the pen of the first timbrophilist of Paris, in which he passes in utter silence the watermarks that are to be found in the stamp of Western Australia and Mauritius.

And, lastly, in the descriptions of novelties given in the journals, it is generally forgotten to notice the presence or absence of watermarks.

OBJECT. — That is the principal object of this paper. In the process of remodeling our collection, we had to remount all of our stamps. This work induced us to search for watermarks. But the study of watermarks naturally brought us to that of papers. We have been too often struck by the varieties of the different papers, some blue, others white, half white, with or without watermarks, not to understand the necessity of the combined study of papers and watermarks. This has induced us to unite them; but, in studying the papers, we have only confined ourselves to the new or little known, or that which had an immediate interest, omitting only what bore but slightly on our subject.

Therefore it is neither a compilation nor the work of a plagiarist. It is the result of a patient and observing study. Our motto is this sentence of Lord Bacon: *Ars tota in observatione*. Thanks to the help of the honorable director of *Le Timbrophile*, we have been able to complete or control inquiries which without it would have required more time and expense.

We have sought in this study what may conduce to identify the different varieties of stamps. Until now they have been selected more by the differences of shades, or the presence or absence of perforations, also, by the kind of perforations. We have wished to show that one of the most important elements, watermarks, has been neglected, and that a difference in the color would often be accompanied by a difference in the watermark. Let us, before beginning this subject, establish in a few words what we understand by series, emission, and issue.

We understand by the word *series* the *ensemble* of stamps, either of one or more types, but always of different values, which, being issued simultaneously or successively, are used in one era for the prepayment of a country's postal matter.

The series consists, 1st, by the preservation of one type, for all or a majority of the stamps, constituting the series; 2nd, by unity of color in the several values employed: for instance, the colored impression on white being substituted for the black impression on colored paper, and reciprocally: the design remaining the same constitutes, according to our ideas, a new series, while a difference in the tone of the color, or the nature of the paper; or watermark, is only a new issue. Nevertheless, a radical change of one stamp of the series is not sufficient to admit a new series, nor does the addition of a new value.

The series takes its name from some important character either of the design or the mode of impression, and from the date of the issuing of the stamps to their withdrawal.

The *emission* indicates the time that the series, or more particularly a stamp added to it, was put into service, or an important change in the color, paper, or watermark.

As for the successive changes that a stamp undergoes, either in the watermark or the paper, they are but differences caused by the issues. We designate this class as *issues*.

(Continued on page 37.)

SCHOOLS OF TIMBROPHILY.

BY AMERICUS.

Timbrophily or stamp collecting has become quite an institution in the United States, and it is high time that we took some definite stand. Let us have union, for in union there is strength. Let us have a system of collecting, *a system of our own*, and not be led entirely by European collectors. Stamp collectors can be counted by thousands in America at the present time, and if we only have *union*, and that we must have in order to make any progress in our favorite pursuit, we may make a much more presentable appearance before the world as the representatives of timbrophily. Let our prominent collectors give their attention *wholly* and unreservedly to the good of timbrophily in America, and they will soon find no reason for complaining that United States dealers and magazines are not worthy of support, as their support is what is needed to make them so, and with that they will pick up and thrive, and we can see no reason why the United States may not stand ahead of all other countries as doing and having done the most to advance the cause of timbrophily, as it stands pre-eminent as an immaculate and puissant nation. I can not believe that American collectors are so utterly devoid of the spirit of their fore-fathers, that glorious spirit of independence which made our nation what it is, that now they will not endeavor to bring about this very desirable end, which can easily be done now, if they will only unite, and each do part, and show our independence in this matter, as we do in greater and more important matters which affect the nation.

There seem to be at present two distinct methods of collecting in Europe, called the two schools, the French and the English. England and France thus far seem to have taken the lead in timbrophily, that is, in the advancement of it as a pursuit, and each has a system of collecting. In the United States

we have no established method of collecting, although there seems to be one which is most prevalent among collectors here, and which is somewhat similar to the English method. We certainly should and must have a school of our own, which should be called the American school. I do not think there are many American collectors who adopt either of the European methods, but most of them seem to have a system different from either, and a system which is universal among them. Now let us bring out this system, and declare it publicly as the *American School of Timbrophilie* so that collectors may know to what school they belong. All of our American collectors do not of course collect after the same method, but most of the prominent ones do, and the rules and form of that system should be set forth, and its advantages clearly explained, and we may expect to see it adopted by nearly all American collectors, I think.

I sincerely hope our prominent American collectors will see the advantages that may be derived by pursuing the course that I have proposed, and act accordingly; and will some one present a synopsis of the rules etc. for the proposed new system for publication in THE MERCURY?—which, I would add, is the paper which deserves our support, and with which it will equal, if not excel, every publication of the kind in or out of the States.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A new addition to



the series, like the accompanying engraving, has been emitted; it is printed in vermilion, on white paper, and



has the accompanying watermark. *The Philatelist* notices the changing of the color of the ten-penny to lemon-yellow.

SAXON AND BOHEMIAN STEAM-NAVIGATION COMPANY.—This Company has issued

three new stamps. They are printed on plain white paper, and the following are the values:—

- 1 groschen or 5 kreuzer, blue and black.
- 2 groschen or 10 kreuzer, pink and black.
- 3 groschen or 15 kreuzer, gold and black.

MAURITIUS.—A new value, 2 sh., has been emitted. It is of the same design as the current set. The color is lavender.

PERU.—Two more values are added to the provisional (?) issue of the 1 dinero. They are 1 peseta, green, and $\frac{1}{2}$ peso, carmine.

NEW GRANADA.—We here give the engraving of the stamp noticed in our last. The small band over the shield contains the words **LIBERTAD Y ORDEN.**



DENMARK.—One of the railway companies has issued a stamp for the conveyance of packets. The stamp is red-brown on white paper, watermarked J.F.J., and unperforated. Value, 8 skillings.

HUNGARY.—Two stamps have been issued for this country, but, believing them to be for fiscal purposes, we will wait for further information before describing them.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Four more railway stamps. Any more coming?

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Yes, four more for this Colony. Soon we shall have to keep a separate album for this class of stamps.

HAMBURG.—We have received some of the old $2\frac{1}{2}$ schilling on watermarked paper, both perforated and unperforated, and printed in light and dark green. There are also envelopes of the value of three schillings, watermarked with the castle.

BRAZIL.—A correspondent has forwarded to us four adhesive stamps, or rather what we take to be stamps. We give our readers a fac

**EXERCITO
EM OPERAÇÕES
CONTRA
O PARAGUAY.**

simile. They consist of the following:—

Black on yellow glazed paper, ribbed.

Black on blue glazed paper, ribbed.

Black on rose glazed paper.

Black on common green paper.

Can any person give us any information about them?



CEYLON.—Our next engraving this month will be that of the ten-penny envelope noticed in our last. There is also a new one-penny stamp. It is something like the two-shilling English, is printed in blue on white paper, perforated, and contains a watermark which we can not make out, on account of the cancelling being very heavy.

UNITED STATES.—We have received as yet no further information in regard to the new series. In our last we omitted to state the colors of the ninety cents: they are black and carmine.

While on this subject we may state that several of our European cotemporaries notice the stamps described in our last as having been rejected by the Government. They have no doubt found out their mistake ere this.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The five-cent stamp has undergone a change. It is now black instead of brown.



HOLLAND.—The accompanying engraving is illustrative of the new 1-cent stamp of Holland. It is printed in black.

There is also a two-cent stamp of the same design. Its color is light brown.

SPAIN.—We have seen a new stamp for this country, and, strange to say, it bears the ex-queen's head. It is of the same design as the 50 millesimos, emitted in 1807, is printed in green on white paper, is perforated, and the value is 200 millesimos.

CANADA.—The color of the one-cent stamp has been changed from red-brown to orange.

OUR "LOCAL" STAMPS.

BY S. A. T.

(Continued from page 19.)

AMERICAN LETTER MAIL Co.—Device, an eagle on a rock, black on white, black on blue. This stamp was issued in 1845 by the Company whose name it bears, and whose headquarters were in Philadelphia. There was a second stamp issued by the same Company, but the design is surrounded by a circle, giving the stamp much of the appearance of the reverse of a (silver) quarter dollar. Like its cogenitor it was printed in black on white paper. The former is comparatively common, but the latter is extremely rare.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY.—(Typographical.) The words American Express Company within an engrailed border, the word *paid* in lower left-hand corner. Black on green, black on vermillion.

The American Express Company (for letter delivery) was organised in 1856-'57, by one Jacob T. Smith and — Dobson, since renowned as a banjoist. The office of the Company was at 186 Laurens Street, New York city. The stamp was used for the prepayment of letters in any part of the city below 42nd Street, in the year 1858. The route was purchased by Mr. Smith, who conducted it until its final failure in August or September of that year. The stamps were cancelled by tearing off a portion, and not with large letters PAID, as erroneously stated by a cotemporary.

ADAMS CITY EXPRESS POST.—Device, a figure of value in the center. Black impression on brown paper. This stamp is purely an imaginary affair manufactured in Europe.

ADAMS EXPRESS Co —Device, profile of — to left. Inscription, Adams Express Company; 25 cts. per half ounce. Black impression on white.

This stamp would apparently appear to indicate Adams Express Co.: such, however, is not the fact. Some two years since the writer through a friend caused one of these stamps to be shown to Col. Adams of the Express Co., who said that the Adams Express there referred to was a defunct California concern, and not the Adams Express Co. of New York.

The envelope stamps, having embossed designs thereon, and inscription Adams Express Co., are simply the business envelopes of the Adams Express, and have no meaning as a frank whatever.

The device of the Boston office is a monogram of the Company,—ÆC. In New York the device is a spread eagle, with a shield on his breast bearing the same initials. In Philadelphia a winged horse, Pegasus, probably, is the device. In Baltimore Hermes with his wand is represented; and there are no doubt many others, but none of them ever had any postal meaning.

ARTHUR'S CITY EXPRESS.—Device, figure of value (2) in center. Black impression on green, yellow paper, &c. This stamp is supposed to be a purely imaginary affair, got up to sell. It certainly is not rare.

BENTLEY'S DISPATCH, Madison Square.—Device, the words Bentley's Dispatch, Madison Square, oblong form, bronze impression on white.

The Madison Square P.O. of the city of New York was in the years 1858-'59 owned by one Bentley, and the stamp above mentioned was used for purpose of prepayment of letters from the Madison Square P.O. to the general P.O. Its value was *two cents*.

BLOOD'S PENNY POST, Philadelphia.—To classify the numerous stamps bearing the name of Blood would require a volume to themselves. We can not propose to designate with any possible hope of accuracy which of the many labels bearing Blood's name were really issued by him or by his successors,

Messrs. Kochersperger & Co. The large stamp, with a man in the impossible position of stepping over the Philadelphia Exchange, the small bronze printed design, Blood's Penny post, Phila., and the design with Henry Clay's portrait in an *oval*, are undoubtedly genuine; but the design bearing Clay's portrait in a *square* frame is, to say the least, an extremely doubtful article. The same may be said of the design with a dove and inscription BLOOD'S DISPATCH.

(To be continued.)

THE OLD SWISS STAMPS.

TRANSLATED FROM LE 'TIMBRE POSTE.'

Here is a question which at first sight seems trite, but the importance of which will soon be appreciated. Do there exist, or, better, have there been stamps emitted by, and exclusively reserved for, the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel? "What," we hear some one say, "are not these stamps in all the albums?" Yes, more or less authentic specimens. But it is not their existence which we are contesting today, but their origin; and that *malgre* the unanimity of all the catalogues, Journals, albums, &c. in considering these stamps as special to the two cantons. We know what such unanimity is worth: it is announced, for example, that stamps have been issued, say, at Timbuctoo,—stamps about which privately-acquired information is given; at once, and without question whether the news is true or not, the papers, eager for novelty, reproduce the *tartare*; and later on, when they change their opinion, lavish invectives on the contemporary who first made known their existence.

What is true as to the stamps of Timbuctoo is equally true in the present case. We first announced that the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel had emitted stamps. It was an error, which we hasten to correct with the proofs in our hands. We have had the good luck to acquire a bundle of Swiss letters, of

the years 1844 to 1850, and all dated from Geneva; and we now give the results of our examination of them.

The canton of Geneva emitted, at the commencement of the year 1844, the 10-cent stamp, for the prepayment of letters for the entire canton. We have a specimen used on the 10th March, 1844. The letters posted in the town for the town paid 5 centimes, and for such letters one of the two stamps, which form together the 10c. value, was employed.

We find on a letter of the 5th October, 1845, the 5 cent. *PORT CANTONAL* printed in black on apple-green, with the figure 5 thick, and its head slightly bent around; nevertheless, it seems the public were allowed still to use the preceding 5c. stamp (inscribed *PORT LOCAL*), for we observe one doing duty on a cantonal letter of the 21st January, 1846. This reduction in the rate, from 10 to 5 centimes, necessitated the suppression of the 10c., which, as we see, enjoyed a circulation of only eighteen months at most.

A letter of the 6th January, 1847, acquaints us that the cantonal 5c. stamp has a successor. The type and shade remain the same, but the figure 5 is more elongated, and its head is thick and straight. It is not till the 5th January, 1849, that we see it for the first time in dark green; and we find this shade still in use on the 24th April, 1852, although officially superseded in December, 1849. Specimens then may be found with the different cancellations used after that date.

Up to November, 1849, we remark that all the Geneveve stamps, from the date of their emission, bear a red postmark, forming a cross, the centre of which contains four balls, so to speak, also uniting in the shape of a cross.

In November of the same year the balls disappeared, and, except for this alteration, the obliteration remained the same, and served to annul the new stamps considered as belonging to Vaud, which appeared perhaps in November, but certainly in December, 1849.

The first of these Vaud stamps which we meet with is a 4 centimes. It is employed on the 2nd December, 1849, and the letter is taxed 3 centimes, being no doubt insufficiently prepaid. The 31st December, the same correspondent again franked a letter with the 4c. stamp, and the letter was subjected to the same surcharge. Nevertheless, a letter posted at the same place, and for the same destination, prepaid on the 5th January, 1850, in the same manner, arrived free, though an other letter, which made the same journey on the 5th March, is furnished with a stamp of 5 centimes. What conclusion ought we to draw,—that 4 centimes only was charged from January to March, and after that 5 centimes? We think not. Our belief is that letters of the town, for the town and its suburbs, were charged 4 centimes; and those for the canton generally 5 centimes; and that the letter went free for 4 centimes as the result of an oversight, which must have often occurred, through the resemblance between the two stamps.

In April, 1850, we get for the first time a *poste-locale* stamp— $2\frac{1}{2}$ rappen—destined for the prepayment of letters for the town and its environs: an emission which easily explains the rarity of the so-called 4 centimes Vaud stamp, which it replaced, probably in consequence of a diminution in the rate. In fact, from this time we do not see any more of the 4c., except on a letter of the 30th April, 1860, which bears two in prepayment of a single-weight letter, for which the rate was but 5c. The sender can only have used these stamps at a loss. Instead of keeping them for two local letters, he used them for one for the canton, and thereby lost the 3 centimes over the rate.

The 5c. remained in favor until the decision of the postal department, on the 4th September, 1850, to create two new stamps, the emission of which was fixed for 1st October, — 5 rap., black on blue (Rayon I.), 10 rap.,

yellow on black (Rayon II.). But though superseded by this emission, the 5c. Vaud continued to be received in payment of postage, and we find them on the 9th August, 1852. Specimens then of this stamp also may be met with, showing a postmark used only after their nominal suppression.

In 1851, we see that the stamps are cancelled by a 'gridiron' in a lozenge frame; and in August of the same year, by a lozenge formed of little horizontal lines, almost touching each other. Conjointly with the appearance of this mark, we observe the first of the *soi-disant* Neufchatel 5-centime stamps, on a letter of the 11th August, 1851. It completely disappeared from our view after the 21st February, 1852; and throughout its period of circulation we find it obliterated with the lozenge of horizontal lines. At first it was printed on white paper, later on yellowish white.

We have found the 5c. Neufchatel on letters sent from Geneva, by one and the same person, at the commencement of September and October, 1851; and the 5 rap., black on blue, on letters of the end of August and the 15th September, which proves beyond question that the two stamps were in circulation side by side. Add to these the 5c. Vaud, still admitted to currency, and we shall have three stamps, without counting the emitted in January, 1852, at which date there were four, all in full work.

There were emitted on the 1st January, 1852, the date which perhaps may be considered as that of the [official] suppression of the Neufchatel, the following stamps, the 10 rappen, black on yellow, retaining its currency with them, and representing the rappen under its new value:—

- 5 rappen, blue on white.
- 15 rappen, rose on white.
- 15 cent., rose on white.

This last stamp for the French cantons. We can not ourselves explain why 5 and 10 cen-

time stamps were not emitted conjointly with the 15c. for the use of the French Cantons.

It results from the facts that we have produced,* that there were never any stamps issued for the cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel, those hitherto ascribed to them having, as we think, been issued by the federal administration. M. N. Rondot, in the *Magazin Pittoresque*, affirms that the 4 and 5c. stamps, said to belong to Vaud, have been employed at Lausanne and throughout the canton; and that it is certain that the so-called Neufchatel has been used in that canton. Was it not then the case that these stamps were used in, and only in, the French cantons, viz., Fribourg, Geneva, Neufchatel, Valais, Vaud, and the Jura Bernois? We are rather inclined to that belief, as we have never yet seen these stamps with postmarks similar, for example, to those employed in the canton of Zurich. Their rarity also increases the probability of our supposition.

The Federal stamps should then, according to our view, be thus classed:—

FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.

November or December, 1849.

Oblong. Arms of Switzerland in post-horn [hitherto termed Vaud stamps].

4 centimes, black and red (suppressed in April, 1850).

5 centimes, black and red (suppressed in October, 1850).

April, 1850.

Rectangular. Same arms as the preceding, but surmounted by a post-horn.

2½ rappen (*post locale*), black and red.

2½ rappen (*orts post*), black and red.

The latter for the German cantons.

(Both suppressed in January, 1852.)

October, 1850.

Same type.

Rayon I. - 5 rap., black on blue.

Rayon II. 10 rap., black on yellow.

* [Viz., that the stamps hitherto supposed to have been peculiar to Vaud and Neufchatel were all used equally at Geneva.—Ed. S.-C.M.]

August, 1851.

Rectangular. Arms of Switzerland, without post-horn (hitherto termed the Neufchatel stamp].

5 centimes, black and red (suppressed January, 1852).

1st January, 1852.

Rectangular. Arms of Switzerland, surmounted by post-horn.

5 rap., blue on white.

15 rap., rose on white.

15 cent., rose on white.

This new classification suppresses the stamps considered to appertain to the two cantons of Vaud and Neufchatel.

The other federal stamps are sufficiently known and well classified: we pass them in silence.

YOUTHFUL DEPRAVITY.

"Thou shalt not steal" saith the divine command. "Thou shalt not steal stamps" is the stamp-dealers' first and greatest commandment. But, alas! it is a commandment of the breach of which the unfortunate dealer has too many painful illustrations.

In the God-forgotten and heaven-forsaken city of New York, as everybody knows, the whole of the juvenile dealers make it their business to steal their stock from their more successful brethren, deriving the means of their ephemeral existence in the same manner as the hungry parasite from the human form corporeal, or the barnacle from the ship's bottom.

But in Boston things are different; for if there be on the face of this great republic one spot over which the guardian angel of Providence spreads the shadow of his wings, it is Boston, the immortal cradle of liberty, the Athens of America, the hub of the universe, the home of timbrophily, the great, the good, the true, the pure, the beautiful.

But we fear that Boston has become a backslider into the path of iniquity, and our faith

in the morality of its youthful scions has been sadly shaken. And thus it came to pass.

Some short time since two young men of fair countenance and polished exterior called at our office in the pursuit of timbrophilic information and also of stamps: for, be it known, that our office is the place *par excellence* in America, where information is imparted for nothing, and stamps for next to nothing. They came, they saw, and they departed, and when they had departed, we became aware of the unpleasant fact that sundry valuable stamps had departed also. But as these young men, besides being born pictures of truth and goodness (if there is any faith in physiology), were evidently the sons of respectable and affluent parents, we were unwilling to formally accuse them until our suspicions were in some manner verified, and so we waited for something to turn up, and something did turn up, for on the very following week these same two young persons called again at our office, and proceeded to "look at stamps."

Now, on the preceding week, among the missing stamps was a complete set of the stamps of Sicily, with the exception of the five grano variety, and our readers will scarcely credit our statement when we tell them that, in order to obtain a complete set of Sicilian stamps, these youthful depredators came with the express purpose of stealing the one stamp which they had inadvertently neglected to purloin on the preceding week.

We closely watched these promising youths, and speedily detected them in the act, and then we called the irrepressible "geevus," and gave the young reprobates in charge, and after their sojourn in the station house, we finally yielded to the tearful entreaties of their anguished parents, and allowed them to depart on condition of their renouncing timbrophily forever, and becoming life members of the N. Y. Philatelic Society, the which they promised to do forthwith; and we congratulate the directors of that body on the acces-

sion to their number of two worthy and congenial spirits.

THE POST-OFFICE.

In ancient times, when the post was first established, it was used exclusively by monarchs and the State. Posts were first established by the Assyrian and Persian monarchs at a day's journey apart. Charlemagne organized the first public post-office, in the year 807; but when that great monarch ended his troubled reign, his post-office died with him, and in his grave was buried for more than four centuries. Then, in the 13th century, postal service was established by the Hanse towns, and has continued with varied fortunes from that day down to the present time.

The present system of England began as a speculation of the Government, and still continues as such to the present day. It is difficult to conceive of a more perfect system, standing, as it does, so far in advance of all the European continental establishments. The Duke of Wellington once said that "The English post-office is the only one in Europe that can be said to do its work," and surely he was right.

The American post-office is but the offspring of the English. Massachusetts, always the foremost in every word and work, was the first colony to establish a post-office; and as early as 1639 the following notice was posted up in one of the streets of the little village of Boston:—

"It is ordered that Richard Fairbank his house, in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters which are brought from beyond the seas, or are to be sent thither; and he is allowed for every letter one penny, and must answer all miscarriages through his own neglect."

Eighteen years later, Virginia followed in the footsteps of her sister colony, and passed a law requiring each plantation to provide a messenger to convey Government dispatches; while the penalty of failure was a hog'shead

of tobacco, which was characteristic of the State and of the times.

In the fall of 1672 "a post to goe monthly" was established between New York and Boston: The advertisement of the new enterprise held forth that "those that bee disposed to send letters, to bring them to the secretaries office, where, in a lockt box, they shall be preserved till the messenger calls for them: all persons paying the post before the bag bee sealed up." The post riders started simultaneously from the two cities, on Monday morning, and exchanged their mail-bags at Saybrook, Conn., the following Saturday. Another week was occupied in the return to their respective cities. Then fourteen days were occupied in the passage of the mails between the two principal cities of the continent, which are now instantaneously linked together by the telegraph.

The first Quaker post office was established by William Penn in 1683.

Franklin received the charge of the Philadelphia post office in 1737, and gave notice of his appointment in the Pennsylvania Gazette, his own paper, as follows:—

"Notice is hereby given that the post office at Philadelphia is now kept at B. Franklin's, in Market St., and that Henry Pratt is appointed riding-master for all stages between Philadelphia and Newport, Virginia, who sets out about the beginning of each month and returns in 24 days, by whom gentlemen, merchants and others may have their letters carefully conveyed."

Franklin was postmaster of Philadelphia until 1753, when he was appointed Deputy Postmaster General. During the first year after his appointment, he visited every office but one in the country, following the Atlantic shore closely in his travels. The Great West was then an unsettled wilderness. Boston was the extreme office towards the North, and Charleston towards the South. Into the colonial post office many improvements were introduced by him which have remained to

the present time. He was the first to throw open the mails to every newspaper, and to charge postage upon them. Until this day, the newspaper business had been a monopoly of the postmasters, who sent their own papers free, and refused all others. He advertised all letters remaining in his office, increased the number of mail carriers, and doubled their speed. He increased the mails between New York and Philadelphia from once a week in summer and twice a month in winter to three times a week in summer and once a week in winter. He fixed the oceanic postage at a shilling, at which price it remained until 1868, when it was reduced to twelve cents. He was the last and best Postmaster-General. The Post-Office Department for the United States was first established on the 26th of July, in the year 1775, when the Continental Congress resolved "that a Post-

(To be continued.)

REVIEW OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The American Journal of Philately, New York: J. W. Scott & Co.

It was our intention to drop the matter with the last number of THE MERCURY, but the January number of the *Journal* having a few side hits at us,—their editor not having the face to openly state his false accusations, we have very reluctantly made up our mind to give our worthy friend one more free advertisement in our columns.

He leads off this month with a grand terrific splurge; and the gallant array of young persons who pretend to style themselves the "Society" appear to have undergone a very radical change. The "Rev." Dr. Morley does not even favor the Society with a letter from Corrientes, and, while disavowing any intention of ridiculing his sacred calling, we would venture to hint that that famous divine and his Cyclopedial letters are "played out." The new "officers" of the mythical society are altogether lacking in dignity, for, alas, the

presidential chair of the sainted Morley is now occupied by the worthless author of the chronological stamp system. Ah!

"What a fall was there, my countrymen."

The secretary is a gushing school boy, whose prose effusions have heretofore been more remarkable for their strikingly peculiar grammar than for their delicacy of expression, and we hardly imagine that his brilliant efforts in the role of secretary are likely to add to the glory of the N.Y. P.S.

The leader is an article on the Paraguay stamps, with a letter alleged to have been written by the Hon. C. A. Washburn, denying in toto the existence of any stamps in that country.

Now, if the letter in question, which the *Journal* alleges was written by Mr. Washburn, was in reality written by that gentleman, it would seem to settle the matter of the Paraguayan stamps for ever; but, with a bright, recent remembrance of the forged communications, pretended to have been written by Dr. "Morley," we must defer an opinion till we ourselves learn personally from Mr. Washburn in regard to the matter, as it is no part of our intentions to assist the impositionists of New York in any of the bright dodges which have recently characterized their movements.

We also note with pleasure that the notorious manipulator of the Canada buff paper envelopes is gazetted as a "member:" at this we are not surprised, for birds of a feather flock together, and the aforesaid Jersey blue will no doubt find congenial aid and friendly sympathy in the society into which he has fallen.

This last-named person also contributes an article on the Brattleboro, Vt., stamp, and the editor states that "We are not aware of any philatelic paper ever having been published in Vermont" (information, by the way, furnished by our publisher to the learned editor); "neither has any article on the Brattleboro

aim is to instruct the ignorant, we here subjoin an article taken from the *Stamp-Collectors' Record* of February, 1865.

The Brattleboro, Vermont, P.O. 5 cents.

This is a stamp which, as being ostensibly a government issue, is entitled to be placed with the stamps of the United States.

In 1848, F. N. Palmer, postmaster of Brattleboro, Vermont (a place since immortalized in the celebrated play of *Our American Cousin*), issued a stamp which did duty in Brattleboro and vicinity in the place of the 5c. Franklin, the then current issue, which could not at all times be readily obtained, and which was recognized by all postmasters as a voucher of the prepayment of the letter to which it was affixed. Mr. Palmer preferred the attaching of the stamp to branding the letter with "Paid 5 cents" in high red capitals, a practice which, thanks to the refinement of a civilized age, is now happily extinct.

A small oblong (copperplate), at top, Brattleboro, Vt., at bottom, 5 cents, at each side respectively, P.O., in centre, initials F.N.P. in fac-simile, black impression on brown paper.

Next we come to "Correspondence," to which "Cosmopolitan" contributes a long letter, in which certain insinuations are made to Boston dealers. We take this occasion to say openly and publicly in our publisher's name that if he means to insinuate that stamps have ever been sold for genuine by F. Trifet since June, 1867, and have proved to be forgeries, that the statement is a bare-faced lie. Take care, gentlemen,—remember that "chickens come home to roost."

For the curiosity of our readers, we here give a summary of "mistakes" made by the editor of the *Journal*.

1st page of cover.—For sale by —, who will sell cheaper than any other dealers in the world. Set of six Brunswick stamps, only 25 cents." Our publisher sells them for 15 cents. One *mistake*.

3rd. page. — "We had even given the description of three specimens before they had been accepted by the authorities." Two of the stamps mentioned are not accepted, the two cents not being a 'post-cart,' and the 12 being green instead of blue." Two *mistakes*.

13th page.—"The edition is fifteen thousand," in speaking of their album. What an edition! Three *mistakes*.

Same page.—We commence this volume with a subscription list of nearly two thousand." This is worse than the last. Four *mistakes*.

But our patience fails us as we have five pages more to correct.

On the whole the N. Y. P. S., always a pretence, is under the new regime a more contemptable imposition, and more miserable subterfuge, than ever, and we strongly commend the trio of worthies who run the *Journal* to try some more honorable method of obtaining a precarious livelihood than by attempting to gull the timbrophilic fraternity by charlatan trumpery and lying imposition. So mote it be.

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR MAGAZINE.

To the Publisher of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

DEAR SIR, Enclosed please find one dollar, for which send me THE STAMP MERCURY for one year, present volume commencing with the first number. My cousin being a subscriber, I have had the opportunity of examining it, and think it will prove a valuable paper to our stamp collectors. Indeed, I think it is the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* of America.

As my dealings with you heretofore have always given satisfaction, I have no doubt that your paper will do so also.

With best wishes for its success, I am

Yours truly,

L. C. H.—.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 28, 1869.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

N. W. P., Providence.—The 1855 2Y $\frac{1}{4}$ real has a watermark of loops, and is on blue paper. The one of 1857 has no watermark, and is on white paper.

INQUIRER.—We would refer you to number nine of *MERCURY* for a definition of the word *philately*.

W. H. P., jr., Chicago.—The two stamps you describe are revenues used in the canton of Berne, Switzerland.

W. J., New York.—Our publisher is expecting some of Van Rinsum's albums every day.

A. H., Buffalo.—This correspondent wishes to know why Saxony and Brunswick stamps are selling at such a low price at present. We would inform him that some of the German States are so near bankruptcy that they sell their obsolete stamps at the mere cost of printing to contractors or agents who retail them to dealers of stamps. Some are so poor (the States) that they stick the new adhesives over the old envelopes, in order to save a few dollars!

P. M., Philadelphia.—The Confederate stamp with small head of Davis, value five cents, was issued in 1862. You are mistaken, as we have seen three specimens of the small 10 cents perforated. This is the only value we believe that is found so.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

BY JAMES M. CHUTE.

The emissions of Colonies so prominent as those owned by Great Britain in North America have, since timbrophily became a study, attracted the attention of collectors. Many detached items have from time to time been published respecting them, but no attempt has been made to group together in one paper the many facts relating to these stamps. The lapse of time has brought to light many facts concerning them, and we purpose therefore to correct some mistakes, and to add such general information as lies within our reach.

Taking the six Colonies which issued stamps, we find that Canada, the most important and extensive, preceded the rest in the emission of postal labels. On the 6th April, 1851, was effected the transfer of the post-office in Canada from the control of the Royal Government to the Colonial Government. Immediately after the transfer, the Colonial Government authorized Hon. J. Morriss, the first Canadian postmaster-general, to have prepared a series of postage stamps to correspond with the reduced rate of postage, which had previously been charged according to the distance the letter was carried, which was computed averaged nine pence per letter, but which was reduced to a uniform charge of three pence per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. A considerable reduction was also effected in the rate of newspaper postage. The contract for their manufacture was given to Messrs. Rawdon, Wright, Hatch, & Edson, bank-note engravers, who prepared the well-known "pence series," consisting of three values, — color, design, &c. as follows:—

3 pence, oblong, vermilion, beaver and crown.
6 pence, rect., purple, portrait Prince Albert.
6 pence, rect., brown, portrait Prince Albert.
12 pence, rect., black, portrait of Queen Victoria.

Printed on stout, unwatermarked white paper, imperforate. They were issued to the public June 1st, 1851; but for the first year they enjoyed but a limited circulation, particularly the twelve-penny stamp, of which there were but eight hundred and twenty copies issued to postmasters for sale. This may be considered the rarest of the Canadian stamps, and unused copies are of considerable rarity. The following year, the Messrs. Rawdon & Co. prepared three new values, which were issued in June of same year, — colors, designs, &c. as follows:—

1 penny, rect., rose, profile of Queen Victoria to left.
6 pence, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. currency, rect., green, portrait of Queen in oval.
6 pence, $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. currency, rect., bottle-green, portrait of Queen in oval.
10 pence, 8c. stg., rect., blue, portrait of Cartier to right.
10 pence, 8c. stg., rect., indigo-blue, portrait of Cartier to right.

Printed like the others of the set upon white paper, imperforate. The rate of postage being reduced, the 12-penny stamp became obsolete, and was replaced by the 10-pence, blue. The other values continued to be issued imperforate until 1857, at which time they were issued with perforations. In the early part of 1859, owing to a change in the currency, the Hon. Sidney Smith, then postmaster-general, authorized the American Bank-Note Company of New York to prepare a new series of labels, with the value in cents. They were manufactured, approved, and issued July 1, 1859. Color, designs, &c. as follows:—

1 cent, rect., rose, profile of Queen Victoria to left.
2 cents, obl., vermilion, beaver and crown.
10 cents, rect., lilac, portrait Prince Albert.
10 cents, rect., purple, portrait Prince Albert.
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, rect., light-green, portrait Queen Victoria.

12½ cents, rect., dark-green, portrait Queen Victoria.

17 cents, rect., blue, portrait Jaques Cartier. Printed upon unwatermarked white paper, perforated. The colors and designs are almost identical with the corresponding values of the preceding issue. They were used principally for the following purposes, although an indiscriminate use of all was allowed: 1 cent for local letters, 5 cents for Canadian and Provincial postage, 10 cents for United States postage, 12½ cents for postage to United Kingdom by Canadian packet, and 17 cents for ditto by American steamers. In 1864 a new stamp was prepared and added to the series, value 2 cents, color and design identical with the one cent, with the addition of numeral of value in corners; printed upon white perforated paper. This was used for county letters &c., and for the prepayment of soldiers', seamen's, and embodied pensioners' letters, provided they did not exceed ½ ounce in weight. Proofs of all the values exist in black and fancy colors upon card-board and proof-paper, with and without the word SPECIMEN printed across the face.

Leaving now the lately current adhesives, we come to the "envelope stamps," which were manufactured by an establishment in New York, under contract with Messrs. Nesbitt & Co., the original contractors. They were issued in 1861, and consist of two values only. Color, design, &c. as follows:—

5 cents, oval, vermilion, medallion profile of Queen to left.

5 cents, oval, orange-vermilion, medallion profile of Queen to left.

10 cents, oval, brown, medallion profile of Queen to left.

10 cents, chocolate-brown, medallion profile of Queen to left.

Printed upon white, laid paper, watermarked CA. P.O.D. (Canada Post-Office Department). The 5 cents exists upon blue, laid paper, and the 10 cents upon white, wove paper, but

they are of considerable rarity. A controversy has long existed between the adherents and opponents of the Canadian envelopes upon buff paper, as to their genuine character. That such envelopes were never issued by the Government is positively certain. While at the post-office department in Ottawa some time since, we were informed, and since by the manufacturers of the envelopes themselves, that no stamped envelopes upon buff paper were ever prepared for or issued by the Canadian Government. Proofs, however, from the original dies upon buff paper exist, watermarked U.S. P.O.D., clearly referring to their origin, but these proofs are rarely met with, and the bulk of those upon buff paper sold by dealers are very close imitations of the originals, and are furnished to the trade, in lots to suit, by a well-known but unprincipled party of Elizabeth, N. J.

Proofs of the original dies, printed in green, blue, and lake, upon white, laid paper exist, but are of great rarity. Proofs in green and blue also exist upon white, wove paper, blue lined on the reverse side; and we have before us a copy of the 5 cent struck twice upon a buff U. S. patent self-ruled envelope, watermarked U.S. P.O.D., and a copy of the 5 cent impressed on a sheet of blue, laid paper, folding with a flap so as to combine letter and wrapper in one. Both copies are marked SAMPLE, and were evidently trial stamps. Canada is the only British Colony in North America that has issued stamped envelopes.

Next in order come the Nova Scotian stamps, the first series of which commenced its existence in 1856, consisting of four values, viz.:—

- 1 penny, square, brown.
- 1 penny, square, Indian-red.
- 3 pence, lozenge, blue.
- 3 pence, lozenge, dark-blue.
- 6 pence, lozenge, green.
- 6 pence, lozenge, emerald-green.
- 1 shilling, lozenge, lilac.
- 1 shilling, lozenge, mauve.

Printed upon bluish-tinted paper, without watermark or perforation. The one penny also exists upon white paper, but is rarely seen. The 1 penny, issued for use in the city of Halifax, has a unique device of its own,—“four discs, each containing a half star, surmounted by a portrait of Queen Victoria in lozenge-shaped frame, the whole surrounded by a square frame containing inscription and numeral of value. The other values have a singularly quaint and pleasing device,”—small crown in center in octagon frame, surrounded by a concentric circle of eight stars, four of which contain the rose, shamrock, thistle, and may-flower, surmounted by elaborate engine-turned discs, the whole surrounded by a lozenge-shaped frame, containing inscription and numeral of value. The one-shilling stamp is of great rarity, and is one of the “*raretis rarissimes*” of many collections. It enjoyed but a very limited circulation, and unused copies are seldom seen. These were engraved in London, England, where proofs from the dies in black upon fine India paper exist.

(*To be continued.*)

THE POST-OFFICE.

(*Continued from page 35.*)

master-General be appointed for the United Colonies, who shall hold his office at Philadelphia;” that he should have a secretary and controller; and that a line of posts be established “from Falmouth [now Portland] in New England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross-posts as the Postmaster-General shall see fit.” For eighteen months previous the colonists had been without a general postal system: Dr. Franklin, who had been Postmaster-General of the Colonies for several years, having been removed for political reasons from that office by the British ministry, and they had neglected to appoint a successor.

When it was evident that there was but

little grounds for hope of relief from that same ministry, William Goddard, an active and zealous patriot, made strenuous and successful efforts towards the establishment of a postal system on what he termed “constitutional principles.” Through his endeavors, the provincial authorities of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, and Connecticut were induced to agree on the establishment of a postal system; and in the course of a few months post-offices, postmasters, riders, and rates of postage had been established throughout those Colonies. Their action was brought to the notice of the Continental Congress, and led to the adoption of the above resolution. Franklin was appointed the first Postmaster-General, and held the office a year. The receipts of the whole establishment for the year ending Oct. 5, 1776, were about one thousand pounds. What progress the nation made can be seen in the fact that the receipts for the year ending June 30, 1867, ninety-one years after, were sixteen millions of dollars!

In colonial times, the official frank was “Free. B. Franklin;” but when the patriot discerned, with his sagacious eye, the dawn of coming freedom, he changed it to “B. free Franklin,” at once giving sound political advice, and in seeking to make a good impression on his countrymen, he conveyed an injunction of universal application.

The growth of the post-office was slow at first. In 1790 there were but 75 offices in the United States, and only 1875 miles of post roads. In that year the general post-office was located at New York, and the first Postmaster-General under the Federal Government was Samuel Osgood of Massachusetts. He recommended that the Postmaster-General should not keep an office separate from the one in which the mail was opened and distributed, “that he might by his presence prevent irregularities, and rectify any mistakes that might occur.” The general

office was transferred to Philadelphia in 1796, and soon after took up its line of march for Washington, the then recently established capital of the nation. In 1802 the Government ran their own stages between Philadelphia and New York, furnishing coaches, drivers, and horses, clearing over \$11,000 by the speculation of carrying passengers. The mails are now transported universally by contractors.

The whole postal system is most accurately and thoroughly planned, having its center at Washington, and radiating over the whole country. Every person is interested in it, from the highest to the lowest, from the resident of the Fifth Avenue palace to the backwoodsman's humble cot. The same principles govern it in our large commercial cities as in those villages on our western frontier, where, as in the days of Abraham Lincoln's early postmastership, the postmaster carries the mail for the whole village in his hat, and delivers the letter when he meets its fortunate owner. Punctuality is a necessary element of the postal system. In the books of the Department at Washington is recorded the exact time of the arrival and departure of every mail throughout the land. Every letter should arrive and depart at the appointed time. In no country in the world is the delivery of letters more systematic, safe, or speedy as in our own favored land.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

SPANISH WEST INDIES.—A new issue has of course been emitted. It is the same as the last, with the exception of the date, which is changed to 1869. They are as follows:—



- 5 cent., rose.
- 10 cent., light-brown.
- 50 cent., orange.
- 40 cent., lilac.

SPAIN.—To the stamp noticed in our last, we have to add four others of the same design, except in the corners. They are as follows:—

- 25 mils. de escudo, blue.
- 50 mils. de escudo, mauve.
- 100 mils. de escudo, brown.

INDIA.—We have seen the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna envelope stamp printed on letter sheets.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The six-penny stamp has been provisionally changed to a four-penny, by having the value impressed in red ink at the bottom.

CEYLON.—The penny stamp noticed in our last is watermarked with the crown and C.C.

TURKEY.—On the 28th of October, a new emission took place. The type remains the same, the only difference being in the transposing of the colors. The prepaid letter stamps now are:—

- 10 paras, lilac. 2 piastres, orange.
- 50 paras, green. 5 piastres, blue.
- 1 piastre, yellow. 25 piastres, vermillion.

The stamps for the unpaid letters remain the same.

PORTUGAL.—All the values, with the exception of the 20 and 80 reis, are now perforated.

OUR "LOCAL" STAMPS.

BY S. A. T.

(Continued from page 30.)

BRADWAY'S DISPATCH, Millville.—The label with the above inscription is an entirely fictitious affair.

BROOKLYN CITY EXPRESS POST.—Device, a dove within oval band bearing the inscription as above. This stamp was issued by one Rogers, who conducted a City Express Post through the city of Brooklyn, N.Y., until very recently. The stamps are tolerably common, and have been reprinted on various colored papers.

BOYCE'S CITY EXPRESS POST.—The fact

of whether this stamp be a real or fictitious article is not very clearly settled. It certainly was not used in New York, and we consider it a very doubtful article.

BRAINARD & Co., New York, Albany, Troy, &c.—This stamp was originally used in 1845, and was used for conveying letters from New York to the other overland cities, and vice versa. The stamp which is to be found in the stamp depots at the present time is by no means a reprint, but is a well-executed counterfeit of the original. The original stamps are seldom to be met with. The stamp is a wood block, and not a type combination, as stated by an ignorant New York journalist.

BRIGGS PAID DISPATCH.—This label is also a myth of small dimensions and mean appearance.

BROADWAY POST-OFFICE.—Design, a locomotive. The Broadway post-office of the city of New York was for many years located at No. 422½ Broadway. It was owned since 1860 by a person named Charles Miller. The office was a small store on the ground floor, the front part being devoted to the sales of periodicals and stationary, and divided from the post-office proper by a glass partition, which on its inner side was divided into boxes of the usual post-office style. In the centre of the partition was a wicket, similar to a post-office window. This office rented those boxes to parties who found it inconvenient to go to the general post-office in Nassau Street, or who for any other cause chose to have their letters sent to the Broadway post-office. The charge for a box was trifling, being, if we remember aright, a dollar a year. The office also undertook the safe conduct of letters to the general post-office, charging for that service one cent for home letters, and two cents for letters to foreign countries. It also undertook the delivery of city letters at the usual fee of two cents, and these letters were caused to be delivered by Boyd's City Ex-

press Post (by special contract), the office employing no carriers save its messenger, who carried the letters to and from the G.P.O., or Boyd's establishment. The office rented a box in the post-office, into which all letters addressed to the Broadway post-office were thrown, and on which a fee of one cent was collected from all persons who were not box holders. But letters deposited in Boyd's Express Post boxes, and by him delivered to the Broadway post-office, were not subject to such tax on delivery, the private posts always making it a point to do things cheaper if possible than the government.

The law forbade the word post-office to be used by an enactment passed in 1858, but the letter office suited the public and themselves as well.

Regarding the stamps: in the month of August, 1865, the writer exhibited to Mr. Charles Miller, at the Broadway letter office, sundry specimens of the stamps bearing a locomotive. On a comparison with those then for sale by Mr. Miller, a glance sufficed to show that the specimens were altogether different, and, as a matter of course, counterfeit. The original stamps are lithographed, while the counterfeit are, as the French say, typographed.

(To be continued.)

REVIEW OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Permanent Stamp Album, by H. Stafford Smith: Brighton, England: Stafford Smith & Co.

The question of a permanent stamp album has at last received a practical solution at the hands of Mr. H. Stafford Smith, a copy of whose latest work is before us.

The book is of oblong form, is elegantly bound, and, as far as typography and general *tout ensemble* are concerned, is unexceptionable. But with its claim to the justice of its title as a *permanent* stamp album have we more particularly to do. Permanency in a stamp album, as in anything else, means that

the work is a finished one, and that it is to last

“Not for a day, but for all time.”

In this particular case, it means specifically that the album in question will contain spaces for all stamps to be issued hereafter.

Now, let us see how Mr. Smith disposes of the vexed question which has so long taxed the wits of the European timbrophilists.

The process is a very simple one indeed,—in fact, its simplicity is something remarkable, and easily comprehended. Let our readers imagine an album on the same plan as the German album of Bauschke, or of the album published by Mr. Smith himself some two years since, under the title of the Illustrated Stamp Album,—imagine this, with the further proviso of 1700 additional or supplementary panels, and you have the whole thing, 1700 additional stamps being, in the opinion of the compiler, the number requisite to constitute permanency; and whenever the onward march of civilization shall have caused that number of stamps to be issued, either the countries of the world shall cease to issue stamps or the album before us shall cease to be a *permanent* album.

Thus much against its claims, but let us look at the other side of the matter.

The album contains a long succession of square panels, and is decidedly English in its matter of fact appearance. There is no room for any ornamental work or fancy chirography left, every inch of space being occupied with squares for the stamps; the valuable (?) information regarding the ruler of each country, its population, and commercial statistics is wisely omitted; and the author has never lost sight of the fact that he was compiling a stamp album and not a geography. The book is essentially in all respects a stamp album, and its general merits are not surpassed by either of the elaborate works of Moens or Lallier, while it has the merit of being much later and less likely to need a supplement than either.

If we may be allowed to guess at the period of time which must elapse before its claim to permanency is forfeited, we should say about three years; and if the time appears short, we would remind our readers that the progress of the French school of timbrophily, and the possibility of the decease of the Queen of Great Britain, would cause many new emissions and varieties. In the catalogue we notice some errors and omissions: only one color of paper for the United States envelopes is given. The first issue (fancy border), 13c. and 5c. Hawaii, are entirely omitted, but room is left for the questionable 13c. of 1867. The medio peso of Peru is also omitted. On the Confederate States page we find the 10c. Nashville, 5c. Charleston, and M. C. Callaway of Memphis omitted, but the 2c. Mobile, which never had any existence, is duly chronicled. Panels are also provided for the doubtful Dutch Guiana stamps. We notice, however, that the Canada envelopes on buff paper are expunged, their hold on the tenacious credulity of collectors having at last been severed; but, as a substitute, the last imposition on the credulity of collectors, the Paraguay stamps, has a place allotted for it. But, more about this last will be said in a future article.

On the whole, the Permanent Stamp Album has less to condemn and more to commend it than any stamp album we have yet seen, and we have no doubt its publication will prove a source of considerable profit to its publishers. The English price of the work is from 6s. and 6d. to 15s., according to the style of binding, a figure which in these times is certainly reasonable; and we commend the book with a right good will to the timbrophilic fraternity.

Our publishers desire to state that they have the above album in different kinds of binding.

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

(Continued from page 27.)

The presence or absence of perforations are only varieties of the stamps in an issue, therefore the word emission we apply either to a series or an issue.

Two examples will illustrate the distinction that we make between the words series and issue. In the New Zealand stamps, for instance, the queen's head has always been the design for all the stamps: the only difference is in the legend indicative of the value. There is, therefore, but one series, which began by the emission of three stamps, 1 penny, 2 pence, and 1 shilling, and completed by the successive emission of the stamps of the value of 6, 3, and 4 pence. But the paper employed is far from always having been the same, and we have, therefore, to note issues on blue paper, unwatermarked white paper, half white with watermark, tissue paper, and several others, indicated by the observation of the watermarks. An other example: the first series of Bavaria comprises but one stamp (numeral in a square frame). The second series includes six stamps, bearing the figure in a circular frame. The color adopted for each stamp varies but little, and the paper is always the same; but, in consequence of a postal convention, all the German governments adopt the same colors for the stamps of the same values. The Bavarian government, without changing the designs of its stamps, in adopting the colors of the convention, emits a new series, for not one of the stamps of this third series is of the same color with its present equivalent. These two examples will illustrate the sense that we attach to the words series, emission, and issue.

DIVISION.—We will divide our remarks into four principal parts,—1st, the papers employed in the fabrication of postage stamps; 2nd, watermarks in general; 3rd, the watermarks and papers of each country in particular; and, 4th, concluding observations.

§ I.—ON THE PAPERS EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

The papers employed in the manufacture of postage stamps have greatly varied, sometimes plain paper has been used, at other times lined paper, white or colored, has been employed. Sometimes the whole sheet is colored, and the value of the stamp is told by the color as well as by the designs and inscriptions which are in that case printed in black. At other times, the paper is only colored on one side, like the early essays and stamps of Switzerland.

For a large number of stamps tinted paper has been used, or, in other cases, the paper appears tinted, caused by the plates not being well wiped. Often the papers have remained entirely white. A certain number have a bluish tinge, without regard to the color of the impression. This tinge is principally found in the old English stamps. "Messrs. Bacon & Petch, and their successors, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co., have always printed the 1 and 2-penny stamps on white paper; nevertheless, a great number of the 1-penny stamp, principally those printed previous to 1854, are on blue ground more or less deep. If some are found only on partially blue paper, the center of which remains white, in other cases the blue color is so uniform as to negative the idea of accident. However that may be, the printing ink has the credit of producing this appearance, which in the 2-penny stamps is not so common, and is, moreover, quite different."—*Magazin Pittoresque*.

We take this opinion as granted, but we will complete it by admitting the presence of some decomposing ingredient in the printing ink, which takes effect by the action of the

air or light, and producing an effect like that caused by oxidised preparations on starch, which turn blue from the contact. This would, therefore, be but a chemical action. This coloration, however accidental it may be in the case of the English stamps, is constant in some countries. Such are the stamps of 1, 4, and 8 annas, second emission of India, the first of New Zealand, a few stamps of New South Wales, and others of Tuscany, Trinidad, Barbadoes, &c.

The white papers are sometimes very thick, and pure white: others are half white, and the ink shows through: others are glazed or very thin.

A large number contain watermarks. We will indicate these in the next article. They are generally the half white and glazed papers.

Finally, wire-wove papers have been employed for postage labels. We will here remark that speaking only of stamps, we will lay aside all the papers employed for all the stamped envelopes, which are often furnished by private parties, and are only trade marked. We will, however, indicate those that offer us some interest, such as the envelopes of Russia, United States, Canada, Hamburg, and Switzerland.

Some papers have colored threads running through them, and which are applied during the manufacture, and which is called the Dickinson process, after the name of the inventor. This paper has been employed for the stamps of Bavaria, the second series of the Federal Swiss, the first envelopes and embossed stamps of Great Britain, and for a few other countries. It is little used today, except for the Bavarian stamps.

Essays are often printed on tissue papers, others on India paper. They are also on porcelain paper, and on card-board. Stamps have been proposed to the French and other governments, printed on a paper saturated with a chemical preparation, acted on by

means of a special pencil, for the purpose of obliteration. None of the projects having been adopted, we are contented with their bare mention. Some Russian and Paraguay essays may be noted, printed in color on an aniline preparation, thus guaranteeing against the obliterating marks being washed out.

(To be continued.)

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

THE ABUSE OF THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.—On Friday, Postmaster-General Randall favored the Congressional committee on public expenditures with his views on the abuse of the franking privilege. He informed the committee that fac simile stamps of any member's signature could be obtained for \$3; that the country was flooded with these false stamps, and the department estimated that 100,000,000 of documents were annually sent through the mails under these false franks. The franking privilege should be abolished; but he recommended that the presiding officers of the two Houses should each have the power to appoint a clerk to frank public documents. The heads of departments should also have the power to appoint a franking clerk.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. E. L., Chicago.—1. All the Prussian stamps issued since 1851 are perforated. 2. Japan issues no stamps. 3. None of the United States adhesive stamps are watermarked.

F. A. D., Montrose.—1. Our publishers are now publishing a new Price-Catalogue, which will be ready in May. 2. The last one was issued in October.

A. P. J., Wagontown.—1. The stamps you describe are not strictly speaking postage stamps. They are struck on the wrappers of bundles of stamps, in order that the Bavarian postmasters can know their contents without opening them. They should not therefore be collected. 2. You will find an answer to your inquiry about Bentley's Dispatch on page 30 of the *MERCURY*. 3. The stamps of the Dominion supersede those of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, but not those of Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, which form no part of the Dominion, and still use their own stamps. 4. The two Jamaica stamps with the arms are revenue stamps which are sometimes used as postage.

C. Van R., Amsterdam.—We will be happy to exchange Magazines with you.

W. H. P., New York.—We can not give you or any of our readers any information as to when the new United States stamps will be ready. In answer to our enquiries, we have received from headquarters the unsatisfactory reply that no further information could be given us at present.

POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH
NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.

BY JAMES M. CHUTE.

(Continued from page 39.)

These remained current until 1860, when, owing to a change in the currency, a new series with the value in cents was emitted, color, design, &c., as follows:—

1 cent, rect., black, medallion head of queen to left.

5 cents, rect., blue, medallion head of queen to left.

8½ cents, rect., green, crowned portrait of queen in oval.

10 cents, rect., vermilion, crowned portrait of queen in oval.

12½ cents, rect., black, crowned portrait of queen in oval.

Printed upon white unwatermarked paper, perforated. They were prepared by the world-renowned American Bank Note Company, and in design, delicacy of engraving, brilliancy of color and general execution they remain unexcelled by the stamps of any country. The portraits of Her Majesty, though lacking faithfulness, are far superior to the insipid likenesses upon most of the British Colonial stamps.

In 1863, a new stamp for local and county postage was added to the series; value 2 cents; color, lilac; design, same as the 1 cent; formerly there was a uniform rate of postage in the colony of five cents, but was reduced to two cents on letters that passed between any two places in the same county, and to meet this was the two cent stamp issued. Proofs of all the values exist in fancy colors upon card-board and proof paper, with and without the word "SPECIMEN" printed across the face. Stamped envelopes have never been issued in Nova Scotia, but, in 1865, Messrs. Nesbitt & Co. prepared a set of essays, said to have been for this colony, but never submitted, impressed upon thick, cream-laid paper, design as follows:—

Queen's head, crowned, to left in a circle; above and below, outside the edge of the circle, a curved band, leaving space for name of country and value, printed in red, blue, green, and lilac.

Next in order come the stamps of New Brunswick, the first of which commenced doing duty in 1856, comprising but three values only, as follows:—

3 pence, lozenge, Indian red.

3 " " vermilion.

6 " " yellow.

6 " " lemon.

1 shilling, " mauve.

1 " " lilac.

Printed upon blueish tinted, unwatermarked paper, imperforate. The design of these stamps is similar to the first issue of Nova Scotia, (and evidently from the same engraver,) but the lower disc in the New Brunswick stamp is occupied by a rose, with the stem pointing upwards, while in the Nova Scotians the same disc is occupied by the May-flower, with the stem pointing downwards. These stamps are yearly increasing in value, particularly the one shilling stamp, which is now almost unattainable. This stamp enjoyed but a very limited circulation, and the only place in which it came in use was on domestic letters over three ounces in weight, or on heavy foreign letters. Some idea of its rarity may be formed from the fact that in the Post Office Department at Frederickton there is but one copy, which is preserved as a specimen. They were manufactured in London, England, where proofs from the dies, in black, on proof paper exist, which are of extreme rarity.

These stamps remained current until May 24, 1861, when they were replaced by a new set with the value in cents, comprising five values, colors, designs, &c., as follows:—

1 cent, oblong, lilac, locomotive and train.

1 " " brown, " "

5 cents, rect., brown, head of Chas. Connell, Esq.

10 cents rect., vermilion, portrait of Queen Victoria.

12½ cents, oblong, blue, ocean mail steamship.

17 cents, rect., black, portrait of Prince of Wales.

Printed upon stout, unwatermarked white paper, perforated. They were all issued to the public with the exception of the 5 cent, brown, — “the famous Connell stamp.” The fact of Mr. Connell’s portrait (which by the way is a very perfect one) being placed upon the 5 cent attracted the attention of the Government, which requested Mr. Connell not to issue them. He declared that if the command was enforced he would resign, it was, and he did. The stamps, therefore, consisting of some 5000 copies, were cancelled by the authorities upon their arrival, and never passed the post. Genuine perforated copies of the issue are extremely rare, but reprints on fine proof paper, in chocolate, brown and orange exist, but command high prices both here and in Europe. Specimens of the 10 cent and “Connell,” struck together upon the same proof paper, exist, and are said to have been prepared for the then Governor-General for the express purpose of ridiculing “Connell.” The die of this celebrated stamp is still in the possession of the American Bank Note Company, the manufacturers of the New Brunswick stamps. Immediately upon the rejection of the “Connell,” the well-known 5 cent, green, was issued, printed like the others of the set upon white paper, perforated. In 1863 a new stamp was added to the series, value 2 cents, color orange, design identical with the others of the set, but with larger numerals of value in the corners; this was issued for county postage, and to make up any odd sum that might be required. In 1864 the color of the 1 cent, previously brown, was changed to mauve.

Proofs of all the values exist on card-board and proof-paper.

Leaving now the stamps of the main-land colonies, we come to those issued by the “Island Provinces,” the most important of which, Newfoundland, receives our first attention, the first series of which were ordered from England in 1856, and issued to the public Jan. 1, 1857, consisting of nine values, as follows:—

1 penny, square, lake, 120 impressions per sheet.

1 penny, square, red brown, 120 imp. sheet.

2 pence, rect., orange red, 120 “ “

2 “ “ vermilion, 120 “ “

3 “ trian., green, 80 “ “

4 “ rect., orange red, 80 “ “

4 “ “ vermilion, 80 “ “

5 “ square, lake, 40 “ “

5 “ “ red brown, 40 “ “

6 “ rect., orange red, 40 “ “

6 “ “ vermilion, 40 “ “

6½ “ “ orange red, 20 “ “

6½ “ “ vermilion, 20 “ “

8 “ “ “ 20 “ “

1 shilling, “ “ 20 “ “

Printed upon white, unwatermarked paper, imperforate; and we have seen copies of the three and five-penny stamps upon the so-called “peleure” quality of paper. The 1 penny and 5 penny resemble the early Nova Scotians in design, but though bearing the same heraldic flowers, the stamps are square. The 3 penny stamp has for a design the rose, shamrock, and thistle, in three circles, on an elaborate engine turned ground, with triangular frame containing inscription and numeral of value. The 2 penny, 4 penny, 6 penny, 6½ penny, and 1 shilling, bear the rose, shamrock, and thistle, in a bouquet, in a centre or oval of various patterns. The first order consisted of 171,000 stamps, the first impressions of which, from the plates of the 2 penny, 4 penny, 6 penny and 6½ penny, were struck off in brilliant orange, verging

on red; the remainder of the order being worked off in bright vermilion. This lot having been exhausted, with the exception of the 8 penny stamp, another order of 222,380 stamps were ordered in September, 1862, by the authorities, and issued Jan. 1, 1863, but, unlike the first order, printed upon thin paper, imperforate, the color of the 2 penny, 4 penny, 6 penny, 6½ penny and 1 shilling being changed by the caprice of the manufacturer, (so we are informed by Hon. J. Delaney, P. M. G.,) from vermilion to lake. The 1 shilling vermilion is of great rarity, and unused copies are seldom seen even in the best collections of the day. The entire set were manufactured by L. Stanford, Esq., London, (probably the manufacturer of the early Nova Scotians and New Brunswicks,) and proofs from the original dies in black, on fine India paper, exist, but are of extreme rarity. In 1865, owing to a change in the currency, a new set with value in cents, was emitted, consisting of six values, as follows:—

2 cents, oblong, green, codfish in transverse oval.

5 cents, oblong, brown, seal in centre.

10 cents, rect., black, portrait of Prince of Wales.

12 cents, rect., Indian red, medallion head of queen.

13 cents, oblong, orange, fishing schooner in centre.

24 cents, rect., blue, crowned head of queen.

Printed upon stout, unwatermarked, white paper, perforated. The design of the 2 cent and 5 cent stamps are certainly novel and unique, but very appropriate for a colony from which comes such large supplies of Lenten fare. The gem of the set is the 10 cent, black, bearing a very perfect portrait of the Prince of Wales in an upright triangle. The 12 cent stamp bears the identical head of Her Majesty, so much admired upon the lower values of the Nova Scotians, and the

24 cents bears the crowned portrait of Her Majesty in a rectangle, which will be readily recognized as a fac-simile of that upon the higher values of the same colony. The 2 penny, 4 penny and 8 penny are still unrepresented; the 8 penny was never in much request, and the first impressions are even yet unexhausted. In November, 1868, a new stamp was added to the series, value 1 cent, color rich mauve, design as follows:—Portrait of Prince of Wales in centre, (a fac-simile of that which did duty upon the 17 cent New Brunswick,) of large oval, occupying nearly the entire rectangle, and bearing on its lower half the name "Newfoundland," whilst crossing and covering its upper extremity is a neat scroll, inscribed "one cent," and immediately below it, in the oval, the letters "N. F.," one on each side; this beautiful stamp is impressed on white paper, perforated. On the 20th of December the color of the 5 cents, previously brown, was changed to black, and we should not be surprised to see an entire change in the color of all the stamps. The entire set was manufactured by the American Bank Note Company, which has produced proofs in fancy colors upon both card-board and proof paper. (The reader is referred to No. XI., Vol. 1, of *MERCURY*.)

Next in order come the stamps of Prince Edward Island, which were ordered by His Excellency George Dundas, Esq., Lieutenant Governor in 1860, and issued Jan. 1, 1861, comprising five values, as follows:—

1 penny, rect., orange, each sheet containing 30 impressions.

1 penny, rect., yellow, each sheet containing 30 impressions.

2 penny, rect., rose, each sheet containing 60 impressions.

3 pence, rect., blue, each sheet containing 30 impressions.

6 pence, rect., green, each sheet containing 30 impressions.

9 pence, rect., lilac, each sheet containing 30 impressions.

9 pence, rect., mauve, each sheet containing 30 impressions.

Printed upon stout, unwatermarked, white paper, perforated. The designs are very plain and simple, viz.:—Head of queen turned to left, enclosed by various patterned frames containing inscription, with values in words at the bottom of the stamps; the colors are good and well laid on, but the portraits of Her Majesty are equalled in ugliness only by those upon the early Mauritius. There has been but one set of stamps for Prince Edward Island, but collectors of the "French school," counting perforations? have divided them into three sets, as follows:—The first order prepared perforated nine dents to two centimetres; the second order, perforated wide apart and coarse, and the third order, of May, 1867, consisting of 2000 sheets of 1 penny stamps, 2000 sheets of 2 penny, 2000 sheets of 3 penny, 1000 sheets of 6 penny, and 1000 sheets of 9 penny, perforated twelve by fourteen dents. The set was engraved and prepared by Charles Whiting, Esq., Beaufort House, Strand, London. The postage to the United States being reduced to six cents on the 1st of November, 1868, it was found necessary to issue a new stamp corresponding in value to the rate of reduced postage, the Postmaster-General (the late Thomas Owen, Esq.) accordingly did, on the 12th of November, 1868, order from Mr. W. Whiting, London, 2000 sheets of 2 penny stamps, thirty impressions on each sheet (which have not yet been received at the Department in Charlottetown), also 2000 sheets of 4 penny stamps, and 1000 sheets of 9 penny stamps. Quite lately we have received copies of the 1 penny stamp with a white margin around the head of queen, showing that the plates are much worn, and we trust that the contract for the manufacture of Prince Edward

Island stamps may soon be transferred to one of the three celebrated Bank Note Companies of New York, which could prepare them at less expense than their present manufacturer, who charges the colony about three shillings and two pence sterling per thousand.

Next in order come the stamps of British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, the first issue of which (for both colonies) consisting of one value only, commenced doing duty March 10, 1861. The value, design and color of the stamp as follows:—

2½ pence, rect., pink, profile of Queen Victoria to left.

Printed upon white paper, perforated. The early impressions were impressed upon unwatermarked paper, but those of a later date were printed upon paper watermarked with a double C and crown. There are two distinct hues of these once "recherche" stamps, some copies being of a rosy, and others of a rich, light red-brown hue. These stamps were manufactured by M. Jowlert, London, under contract with Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London, and bear the identical head which figures upon the stamps of Malta, Sierra Leone, and other British Colonial stamps. In the summer of 1865, owing to a change in the currency of Vancouver's Island, a new series of stamps were emitted with the value in cents, as follows:—

5 cents, rect., red, head of queen to left in circle.

10 cents, rect., blue, head of queen to left in circle.

Printed upon white, glazed paper, made expressly for the purpose, watermarked C. C. under a crown, and perforated. In the red the words of the value run in a curved line, following the circle containing the head, while in the blue they are straight, at the bottom of the stamp. They were manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., of Bunhill Row, London, and bear a fac-simile of

the portrait upon the Bermudas and the 3 penny Ceylon. The design combines neatness with beauty, and shows the artistic skill of a practised hand. Immediately upon the withdrawal of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ penny stamp, which had heretofore done duty for both Vancouver and Columbia, a new stamp for British Columbia was ordered from England, and issued with the new stamp of Vancouver, value, color, &c., as follows:—

3 pence, rect., blue.

Printed upon white glazed paper, watermarked C. C. and crown, and perforated. The design of this stamp is exceedingly novel and pleasing, viz.: a Gothic crown above a capital V. (for Victoria), with a rose in centre of the V., and to right and left the shamrock and thistle, upon a solid ground, surrounded by an oval band inscribed, "British Columbia Postage. Three Pence." The corners of the stamp formed by the tangents of the ellipse. This beautiful accession to our albums was manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., London, who also produced the rare essay of similar design, with crown, &c., upon a plain ground, and the oval band inscribed, "British Columbia," on the left, and "Postage Three Pence," on the right, printed, like the lately current stamp, upon white glazed paper, perforated, and watermarked C. C. and crown. In the Spring of 1868, owing to a change in the currency, the 3 pence, blue, was changed to bistre, with a provisional value, "two cents," impressed in black ink in the lower margin of the stamp, being thus issued to exhaust the stock on hand, and to do duty until the arrival of a new series with the value in cents. We were some time since informed by the Postmaster-General of British Columbia that stamps of the following values, 25 cents, 50 cents, 75 cents, and \$1.00, were being prepared in London, and would soon be issued in the colony, and we have since been informed that they are in actual circulation,

but not having seen specimens, we can give no description of them.

We now arrive at the issue of labels for the New Dominion. By Her Majesty's proclamation, issued in the Spring of 1867, the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were to form one grand Confederation or Dominion, which took effect on the 1st of July, 1867. Among the Departments thus centralized was the Post Office Department, which has passed into the hands of one person (Hon. Alex. Campbell), and there is now but one postal rate throughout the British Confederate States, and but one set of stamps. The Post Office Act was passed Dec. 21, 1867, and came into operation April 1, 1868, the inland rate of postage being reduced from five cents to three cents per half ounce. The contract for the manufacture of the new postal labels was given to the British American Bank Note Company of Ottawa (formed of well-known American engravers), which produced an elaborate series of stamps (which are well worthy to take rank with any produced by the celebrated New York company), value, color, &c., as follows:—

$\frac{1}{2}$ cent,	rect.,	black.
1	"	dull red.
2	"	green.
3	"	vermilion.
6	"	brown.
$12\frac{1}{2}$	"	deep blue.
15	"	mauve.

Printed upon stout, unwatermarked, white paper. They were issued April 1, 1868, the order for the issue being as follows:—

POSTAGE STAMPS.

To enable the public to prepay conveniently by postage stamp the foregoing rates, the following denominations of postage stamps for use throughout the dominion have been prepared, and will be supplied to postmasters for sale:— $\frac{1}{2}$ cent stamps, 1 cent do.,

2 cent do., 3 cent do., 6 cent do., 12½ cent do., 15 cent do., all bearing as a device the effigy of Her Majesty. The postage stamps now in use in the several provinces may be accepted as at present in prepayment of letters, &c., for a reasonable time after the 1st of April, but from and after that date, all issues and sales to the public will be of the new denomination.

The design bears a resemblance to that of the lower values of Nova Scotia, but shows the queen's head turned to the right; moreover, whilst retaining the central device by enclosing it in a differently patterned frame for each value, the engravers have given greater variety to the series. The half cent is distinguished from the rest by its smallness, which is quite one-third less in size, but the device is the same. The two lowest values are for newspapers,—the half cent being especially available for periodicals weighing less than one ounce, when posted for any place in the dominion, and the one cent for every three newspapers. The two cents are used for periodicals, &c., and to make up any odd amount that may be required. The 3 cents pay the interior single rate postage; the 6 cents the charge on letters to this country. The 12½ cents represent the postage to England, and the 15 cents the rate for letters sent via New York. Possibly new 5 and 10 cent stamps may yet be added to the series, but the old 17 cent, blue, will find no substitute. On the 1st of January, 1869, the color of the 1 cent, dull red, was changed to orange; this was done to avoid the mistakes which frequently occurred, owing to the assimilation of color, of the 1 and 3 cent stamps. We possess proofs in black from the dies, impressed upon card, also proofs in proper and fancy colors, upon both card and proof paper.

Before closing our list, we would advise all collectors whose series for these colonies are not complete, to make up their collection

early, lest they should at a future time have to pay a much higher price than at present for the stamps they want.

THE PARAGUAYAN STAMPS.

We have been the recipient of the following letter which we copy *verbatim*:—

COLEGIO PRIMARIO SUPERIOR.

Se halla situado este establecimiento en la calle de Sta. Cruz, bajo la direccion de D. Manuel Pruna, Professor de Instruccion primaria superior y elemental de la Escuela Normal.

Montevideo del Uruguay, Enero de 1869.*

SEÑOR F. TRIFET,

State St., No. 20, Boston, Estados Unidos.

Senor: Having seen your name quite often in the European publications, I thought I would address you with a desire to obtain the rarer varieties of American postal labels. I have a very good collection of the modern stamps for this part of the world, with quite a number of duplicates, including old and new Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay, &c., which I would like to exchange for Confederate 2c. green (large), 10c. rose, 10c. red (old), Nova Scotia 1 shilling, and others rare, one of a kind. I desire to obtain your price current, or list of stamps, from which to make future selections. If you will send me the above-mentioned varieties, with any rare proofs, &c., I will return you a good equivalent of South Americans by return mail. I enclose you a few varieties of the newest issued stamps, which are of the Republic of Paraguay (issued in 1867). As they are new, perhaps you would like a correct list of them, which you can rely on as being strictly correct, as it was obtained from an official at Asuncion, there are, viz., issued Sept. '67, 5 cents, vermilion, for newspapers, drafts, &c., &c.; issued Jan., '68, 10c. green, 20c. blue, 50c. red, 50c. blue, from original die of the 5c., figures impressed in red; issued May, '68, 10c. green, 20c. blue, 50c. blue, (figures in black ink.)

Trusting that I shall hear from you by next mail, I remain, Senor,

Your obedient and assumed servant,

D. RAMON DE MEDINA,

Montevideo, Republica del Uruguay,
South America.

SEÑOR F. TRIFET, Boston, Estados Unidos.

(Write in Spanish, French, or English.)

* Primary Superior College. This establishment is situated in the Street of Santa Cruz, under the direction of Don Manuel Pruna, Professor of Primary, Superior and Elementary Instruction of the Normal School.

Monte Video, Uruguay, January, 1869.

The foregoing pertains to be from a student (?) in a university at Montevideo, and though little is said about the Paraguay stamps until the last, the writer seems to us to be quite anxious to prove their genuineness. It is needless for us to give an entire history of the stamps mentioned, but we will say a word regarding them. The first that we hear any account of appeared in this city, whence they came from, we are unable to say, but we feel that we can now safely declare that Paraguay has never issued Postage stamps of any kind.

The manufacturers of them went so far as to forge a letter pertaining to come from the Hon. C. A. Washburne, late U. S. Minister to Paraguay (guaranteeing their genuineness), and it appeared in the *S. C. Magazine* of July, 1868, which letter was pronounced by him to be a forgery through the A. J. of Philately of January, 1869.

We now come back to the original subject. The writer by his own account is a student (?) in a South American university, where Spanish is the language used, and by his name is a Spaniard, or rather Spanish-American: in that case his education would be tolerably complete as regards Spanish certainly. That we find is not the case, if we are to judge from his writing; he seems to disregard accents entirely, and in the word *Señor*, which occurs several times, the tilde over the ñ is entirely ignored; that mark gives the word the sound of *Senyor*, and would not be omitted by any person being at all conversant with the Spanish language. We opine that the Spanish part of the letter must have been copied from a circular or advertisement of the college, with the exception of the *Señor*, which comprises the writer's education in the Spanish language. Our readers will also notice that, though the date is given January, 1869, the day of the month is not given; was this because the writer knew not exactly at what

time it would arrive at Montevideo for re-mailing, and of course it would not do to have the date of the letter differ materially from that of the postmark?

Again, among the stamps sent us as samples, we find a Paraguay 20 cents, blue, and a Bolivia 1 peso, blue, and (to insure their genuineness) both cancelled and to all appearance cut from Spanish newspapers, but upon carefully examining the paper adhering to the back of the stamps, we are led to ask the question, *Why is it that stamps of two different countries pay postage on the same newspaper?*

He also states that the 5 cents, red, is used "for newspapers, drafts, &c., &c." How is it that all of that denomination that we have seen attached to anything have been upon letters, and those that he sends us of high values are attached upon newspaper?

Again, we see upon examining the letter that, though it is written backhanded, still we find a strange similarity in the writing with that of a gentleman of this city, samples of whose writing we have in our possession; and we would also state that the letter is written in blue ink, and we naturally infer that the letter was written in this city and forwarded to Montevideo for re-mailing, and, to do that, must have been written in November, and that the gentleman we have mentioned used blue ink to write the samples in our possession which were written in November.

With these comments on the foregoing letter, we leave our readers to judge as to the amount of value to be placed on such information, and would ask them if they don't think, with us, that in this instance the "biters are bitten?" And *this*, "to all whom it may concern."

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

UNITED STATES.—As we write this article we have a set of the new stamps before us.

We believe there was no *necessity* in getting new stamps, but it was only the desire to have a handsome-looking set that prompted the Government to have them manufactured. That this has been a failure no one can deny. We intend giving a complete description of them, coupled with a few remarks of our own, for the benefit of our foreign readers who may not get some of the values for some time to come.

One Cent.—Head of Franklin looking to left, surrounded by a beaded circle; in a curve at the top, U. S. POSTAGE, at the bottom, ONE CENT, with the numeral 1 in a small rectangle between the words; color, Roman ochre.

This value is one of the good looking of the set; the only objection to be found in it being its strong resemblance to a nickel cent.

Two Cents.—Post horse and rider, facing to left, surrounded by ornamental scroll work; UNITED STATES POSTAGE in two lines above, TWO CENTS below with numeral 3 between the words; color, light bronze.

When we say that this value is a success, we believe our readers will agree with us. The design, color, and in fact everything but the size is well chosen.

Three Cents.—Locomotive, heading to the right, surrounded by ornamental scroll work; UNITED STATES in a curve at top, immediately underneath, POSTAGE; at the bottom, each word forming a curve, THREE CENTS, with numeral 3 between the words. Color, imperial ultramarine.

That this design should be accepted for the value that is the most used passes our understanding. As far as the locomotive goes, we approved of it, but beyond that there is nothing to admire. The artist seems to have put all his abilities in trying to include as much ornamental and "gingerbread" work that could possibly enter in such a small space, and that he has succeeded in doing so no one will deny.

Six Cents.—Head of Washington, three-quarter face, looking to right, inside of a circle which is within a square frame; POSTAGE at top; SIX CENTS with numeral 6 between the words; UNITED STATES at the sides. Color, same as the last.

This is the plainest and, excepting the thirty, handsomest to our mind of the set. But, like the others, it has a fault, and that is its color. It is identical to a shade with the three-cents, and, as both values will be extensively used, this will occasion many mistakes, principally at night. That this evil will be remedied there is no doubt, and we should recommend in that event a bright scarlet as the fittest color.

Ten Cents.—Shield, on which is resting an eagle with outspread wings; eagle looking to left; UNITED STATES POSTAGE in upper section of shield, numeral 10 in lower; the words TEN CENTS in a scroll at bottom. The whole design surmounted by thirteen stars arranged in a semicircle. Color, orange.

This value has the least pleasing effect of the series, the color being very poor.

Twelve Cents.—Ocean steamship, surrounded by ornamental scroll work; UNITED STATES POSTAGE in two lines at top; TWELVE CENTS in a corner at bottom, with numeral 12 between the words; U. S. "monogramatized" on each side. Color, milori green.

This being the plainest and most tasty of all the designs is the handsomest. The steamship and the waves look true to nature.

Fifteen Cents.—Landing of Columbus, ornamental and scroll work at top and bottom; U. S. POSTAGE at top, FIFTEEN CENTS at bottom with numeral 15 underneath. Colors, picture Prussian blue; scroll and ornamental work, pale India red.

The fine work of the centre picture deserves admiring. Until now, we thought that such stamps as the Bolivia, Costa Rica, &c., could not be surpassed for fine picture work, but this throws them all in the shade.

Twenty-Four Cents.—Declaration of Independence; ornamental and scroll work at top and bottom; U. S. surrounded by ovals at upper, left, and right corners respectively; the word POSTAGE between the two; TWENTY-FOUR CENTS in scroll at bottom, with numeral 24 underneath. Colors: the picture purple lake; scroll and ornamental work light Milori green.

This surpasses the last in microscopical engraving. The picture in the centre contains no less than *forty-two* distinct figures, the largest one not being over a quarter of an inch tall.

Thirty Cents.—Eagle, facing to left, with outspread wings, resting on shield, with flags grouped on either side. The words U. S. POSTAGE in upper section of shield; the numeral 30 in lower; THIRTY CENTS across the bottom. Thirteen stars arranged in semi-circles at top of design. Colors: eagle and shield carmine; flags blue.

This is the gem of the set. The design is handsome, and the colors blending together gives it a patriotic look. The only objection we find to it is the *blue* stripes in the flags, which might have been made red very easily.

Ninety Cents.—Head of Lincoln, in an oval, three-quarter face, looking to right, surrounded by ornamental and scroll work; numerals 90 at each of the upper corners; U. S. POSTAGE at top of oval; NINETY and CENTS in scroll at lower left and right corners of oval, respectively; U. S. at lower left and right corners of stamps, respectively. Colors: portrait black; surrounding ornamental, and scroll work carmine.

The portrait of Lincoln is a splendid likeness, but we find some fault in the design, and that is, that at first sight it seems as if part of the design was cut off at the bottom.

Taking the set together, we cannot say that it is as handsome as it might be, as there are too many glaring faults in the stamps. The six lower values are too small altogether, and the shape adopted, square, is

to our mind of thinking, very bad. Another minor fault we find, and which we hope will be remedied, is the strong taste of onion which the gum has.

"The stamps now in use are not to be disregarded, but must be recognized in all cases equally with the new ones."

NEWFOUNDLAND.—We give an illustration of the recently emitted value for this province. As our readers will see for themselves, the design is very handsome, and as the engraving and color are both first class, the *tout-ensemble* is very beautiful.

BELGIUM.—The 20 centime stamp is now printed in a much brighter color than formerly, which improves its appearance. An entirely new series is expected, but when?

GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The superabundant stock of the envelopes of the various States have been metamorphosed into "Confederatic" ones by having the common adhesives stuck over the old stamp. In some future number we will give a complete list of these, which it would be impossible to do at present.

RUSSIA.—A new series of envelopes have been emitted of the annexed design. The values are:—



10 kopecks, brown.

20 " blue.

30 " rose.

These are printed in two shades on three different-sized envelopes, and an extra size for the 20 k., making three stamps and nine-*teen varieties*. The adhesives now bear the following water mark:—



TURKEY.—Our proof-reader, in our last, amongst other minor mistakes, made us chronicle a *fifty* para green. It should be a twenty.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—We are indebted to *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for the following description of the stamps issued for this country:—

"They are, or will be of four values, viz.:—1d, 3d, 6d, and 1s. The design, which is rather intricate, we will endeavor to explain. The arms are emblazoned on an oval convex shield, which is divided across the centre by a horizontal silver band, termed a *fesse argent*; the upper half of the escutcheon is subdivided perpendicularly, the right side bearing a gold lion sejant on a red field; and the left, on a blue ground, a Boer habited in shooting costume, and with gun in right hand. In the base or lower portion of the shield is a waggon, with red wheels, on a green field. Over all, in the centre, is a small silver escutcheon, charged with an anchor. The crest is a black eagle, displayed with extended wings. The arms are supported on either side by three flags bearing the national colors, arranged thus. At foot on a blue ribbon is the motto, —ENDRAGT MAAKT MAGT (Union is Strength). The stamps will be issued in the four different colors of the republic: the penny, green; the threepenny, white; the sixpenny, blue; and the shilling, red. The postmaster informs us that there is some doubt as to whether the engravers will be able to get the whole of the above design into such a small compass, but we, for our part, think they will not find any difficulty in doing so."



CEYLON.—We are now enabled to illustrate the penny stamp lately emitted. It being so analogous to the three pence, it shows that the authorities no doubt intend to give us an entirely new series.

BRAZIL.—*The S. C. Magazine* mentions the appearance of some of the values upon blue-tinted paper. Upon examination we find that the gum, and not the paper, is changed to blue, which makes quite a difference.

NORTH GERMANY.—Messrs. Moens and Mahe are just now about trying to establish

the genuineness of a $\frac{1}{4}$ sgr. rose. This, like the 3 krs. lilac, Wurtemberg, noticed a short time since, are but chemically changed, and how two such persons as these should be deceived we cannot say. By the way, as America and Boston seems to get the blame for every "sell" played on these worthies, we take it on ourselves to call their attention to these. But of course we know that the specimens of these rare essays came from America. Of course we all know that, to prove which see the next number of their magazines.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.—We now have an other set of stamps similar to those of St. Helena; the 3 penny die has been struck off in five more colors and the values printed across the same, as in the 2 cents:—

5 cents, orange; obliteration and value, black.

10 cents, pink; obliteration and value, blue.

25 cents, yellow; obliteration and value, violet.

50 cents, violet; obliteration and value, red.

1 dollar, green; obliteration and value, green.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.—The 4 penny stamp, noticed in our December number, has been emitted, and we now give an engraving of it to our readers. Color, black. It is unwatermarked, perforated.



GAMBIA.—"We are proud to announce the preparation of stamps for this African settlement. In a central circle is Queen Victoria's coroneted head in white relief; in straight bands above is GAMBIA; below, the value, which, as well as the spandril ornamentation, is embossed in white. The stamp is nearly square, and the specimens possessed by our correspondent are imperforate. Values: 4 pence, deep brown; 6 pence, deep blue."—*The Philatelist*.

JAVA. — The solitary individual is now perforated.

NEW GRANADA. — Annexed is an engraving representing another value of the new issue. It is imperforated, and unwatermarked:



5 centavos, yellow.

LUBECK. — Three new stamps lie before us to be described. This is all we can do, for we have not the remotest idea of what two of them are *used* for. They are all circular shaped and gummed. One is the "POST AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT" stamp of "LUBECK;" in the centre are the arms; color, blue.

The other has the same appearance, but rather smaller. STADT-POST-AMT. at top, LUBECK at bottom; color, green.

The third is much larger and indented around, being punched out (?). In the centre, the arms of Denmark. OBER-POST-AMPT. at top, LUBECK at bottom.

GREAT BRITAIN. — The 9 penny is now watermarked with the emblematic rose.

QUEENSLAND. — Annexed is the representation of the watermark now to be found in the stamps of this colony. If all the colonies should adopt the initial watermark, what an addition there would be to the list and albums of the French school.



WURTEMBERG. — A 14 kreuzer stamp will shortly be issued. Color, orange.

BAVARIA. — A 3 kreuzer envelope has been issued, of which we will give an engraving next month. Color, rose.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION. — We have just received two new stamps for this State. They are no doubt made to supersede the two Prussian stamps struck on goldbeaters' skin. The first has a large numeral 10 in an oblong oval, at the top of which is

NORDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK, and at the bottom GROSCHEN. Color, greyish brown.

The other has the numeral 80 inside of a square frame, with the same inscription as the ten at top and bottom. Color, light blue. They are both printed on unwatermarked paper, and perforated.

SPAIN. — We omitted to announce last month a stamp of the same design as those described, 19 cuartos, brown.

ROUMANIA. — We have seen three new stamps, 5 bani, orange, 10 bani, blue, 25 bani, blue and orange. Further particulars in next.

THE LATEST IMPOSITION.

No sooner was the Ecuador 2 reales, green, proved to be a fraud, than the Hayti 2 reales, red, appeared, followed in quick succession by the Guatemala 5 centavos, Paraguay 5, 10, 20, 50 centavos, &c., Bolivia 1 peso, Ecuador 12 reales, and others, all of which collectors and dealers have been victimized with. In some cases, the Guatemala for example, dealers still advertise them, and we are forced to believe that in some, if not all cases, these parties know them to be frauds.

But with another stamp of rather another family have we to do. It is not of an imaginary stamp but of a first class counterfeit of



the 13 cent Sandwich Islands stamp that we now speak. This stamp has never been common, and the "manufacturers" finding trade dull, and not being able to think of any other South American coun-

tries that require stamps at present, have turned their abilities another way, and now present to the credulous world a forgery of this stamp which for fine work does not in the least yield place to the original. Were it not for a few oversights of the engraver, it would be taken by the best judges for genuine.

That there is the least doubt about its false

origin is entirely out of the question, as we will, *if it is necessary*, give the names of all parties concerned in its manufacture, including the engraver, originator, "shovers," &c. As, no doubt, our English cousins will be the heaviest sufferers, we would warn them, and will now proceed to give to our readers the tests to distinguish the real from the forged.

GENUINE.

The space between the 1 and 3 in the upper left-hand corner is very small, and can hardly be seen with the naked eye.

The 3 in the upper right corner does not project lower down than the 1.

The 3 in the lower left hand corner is broader at the bottom than at the top, and is ill shaped.

After UNITED STATES there is a period.

The back ground is formed by *crooked* parallel lines.

The color is either bright vermilion or flesh colored.

With the above direction it is an easy matter to be on guard, and our readers may rest assured that we will spare no pains or expense to obtain early information in regard to "newly issued stamps" of this description; and, in conclusion, we would ask our foreign contemporaries if things look as if we were interested in the sale of this class of goods?

COUNTERFEIT.

A white space is very plainly seen with the eye.

The 3 is much lower than the 1.

It is of the same width at both ends, and very regularly shaped.

This period is left out.

These are almost straight, and the vertical lines are too much inclined.

The color is a perfect brick red.

REVIEWS OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine. Amsterdam: C. Van Rinsum.

The second number of this paper lies before us, and we are puzzled where to commence. As the publisher does not call it a comic paper, we are afraid of doing so, for fear of offending. However, we will take it for what we suppose it is meant, a timbrophilic magazine, and proceed.

We find that it consists of sixteen pages, a trifle smaller than our own, eight of which are taken up with advertisements. Passing these, the first article we come to is a table of the Mexican stamps issued in 1868. Next a warning to collectors not to purchase stamps which are sold by booksellers in Amsterdam, as they are forgeries. Next a review of contemporaries, and the "Monthly-Chronicle," in which all the new stamps are disposed of in the "shortest and sweetest" imaginable manner. The chronological system is continued through this number, and a description of the before-mentioned forgeries are given, and answers to correspondents fills up the remaining space.

What position or success this magazine will attain with collectors we are unable to say, but we should advise its "redactor" to have fewer mistakes in future numbers. All the praise we can give we give it to its publisher for the enterprise and courage demonstrated in publishing such a paper. We wish him good luck, and recommend the *Magazine* to collectors, if not for its usefulness, for its curiosity, as it is the first instance that we know of in which the editing of a magazine is undertaken by a person entirely unfamiliar with the language in which he writes.

OUR "LOCAL" STAMPS.

BY S. A. T.

(Discontinued.)

We would respectfully inform our readers that this article will not be continued, more

interesting matter being prepared to take its place. Our publishers desire us also to state that some parties having the impression that Mr. S. Allan Taylor was a member of the firm, that this is not the case, and to further state that Mr. Taylor has no connection whatever in any capacity either as partner, editor, writer, &c., with F. Trifet & Co. or the *MERCURY*.

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POST-AGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

(Continued from page 44.)

§ II.—OF WATERMARKS IN GENERAL.

The watermarks employed in stamps belong to two distinct orders.

1st. The watermark is composed of but one design, which takes up the whole sheet. It therefore happens that according to the place in the sheet whence the stamp comes from, it has or has not any watermark. This disposition is plainly to be seen in the stamps of India. In the sheet of the one-half anna, blue, first series, we find the following design:—



In the lower portion of the oval there is an Indian inscription which we have been able to but partly reproduce, as part of the sheet is missing.

We will indicate under each country what we have seen of them; but it will not be surprising if some of these watermarks have escaped us. The official watermarks on envelopes belong to this class.

2nd. As a general thing, the design does not occupy the whole sheet, but only that part which each stamp is to occupy. It should be understood that in the manufacturing of stamps each little design is not always to be found under the stamps that it should be under: hence only a portion of the watermark is to be found. Often the watermark is turned upside down, which makes a 9 of a 6. Sometimes paper made for one stamp has been employed for an other.

The finding of these watermarks is often a thing of great difficulty. If, in some cases, they are easily found by holding the stamp to the light, we have found that it is much easier done by placing it face down on a dark object. In this manner, the design of the watermark plainly appears.

The following are the watermarks generally found:—

1st. The royal crown, of which there are several types, which are illustrated further on.

2nd. The royal crown of England above two *Cs*. This watermark is specially employed for the British Colonies. The two *Cs* are the initials of the CROWN COLONIES. In about the centre of the sheet, the words *Crown Colonies* are watermarked.

3rd. A laurel or oak wreath.

4th. Emblems pertaining to the coat of arms of the country, buckled garter, *fleur de lis*, heraldic flowers (rose, shamrock, and thistle), swan, anchor, pineapple, elephant's head, rose, pyramid, dove, liberty-cap, or the coat of arms of the country, omitting the stamps.

5th. A post-horn.

6th. A six-pointed star.

7th. Buckles.

8th. Lines, either diagonals, forming loz-

enges, waved and parallelly to crossed, form kind of ovals finishing in points, or waved only parallelly.

9th. Letters, either roman or script, of various sizes. These may be interlaced, and form a kind of monogram.

10th. At other times, the watermark denotes the value of the stamp, either in words or in figures, which may be of two kinds,—1st, those that are formed by two lines; and, 2nd, those that have but one line. We will call the first-named thick, and the last-named thin figures. Mr. Herpin denotes the first as two-lined, and the last as single-lined. We will employ both terms indiscriminately.

These various watermarks are often divided by vertical and horizontal lines, which we find on the edges of the stamps.

Very often these little watermarks get mixed up with either the word *postage* or some others which are to be found on the margins of the sheets.

Lastly, the paper-maker's name or trade mark must not be mistaken for watermarks, of which we will give a few examples.

§ III.—OF THE PAPERS AND WATERMARKS IN EACH COUNTRY.

GREAT BRITAIN.—The first stamps of 1 penny and 2 pence have all a



small crown. This watermark originally adopted must have been used until 1854 or 1855, the time at which stamps commenced to be perforated, for

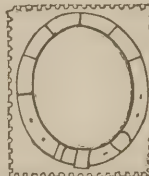
we find with this watermark the 1 penny, black, the 1 penny, brick-red, with its varieties of colors, excepting amaranth, the 2 pence, blue, without lines, the 2 pence with lines, and ornaments in upper corners; but a very few of these stamps are found perforated. The essays with the corners in various colors also bear this watermark.

From 1854 or 1855, we find on the 1 penny



and 2 pence stamps an other crown, much larger and better designed. Nearly all the stamps bearing this watermark are perforated. They are the 1 penny, of two letter, and of amaranth color; the 2 pence, blue, of two letters; the 2 pence, blue, of four letters, including all the various figures at the sides; the last stamp emitted, the 1 penny, dark carmine, with four letters. Lastly, the official essay of the three half pence which was not emitted.

There is also to be found on the stamps of



Great Britain two other watermarks, but only in the glazed papers. One of them is a buckled garter, and is found on the 4-penny stamps, either with or without letters in the corners. Two varieties are known, one being 17 x 14 millimetres, and on blue paper; and the other 22 x 19, and on white paper. We possess, however, one of these stamps without letters, struck with the word 'specimen,' printed on thick, blue paper, and containing no watermark. Is it a specimen of a stamp, or of perforation? The other watermark



represents the heraldic flowers of Great Britain,—the rose, shamrock, and thistle. It is found on the stamps of the values of 3, 6, 9 pence, and 1 shilling, with or without letters in the corners. These last two watermarks go back to 1855, the year when the stamps were first printed on glazed paper.

We need not speak of the water-lined papers of the English envelopes, it being furnished by private parties. However, we must remember that the envelopes bearing Mulready's vignette are crossed by three colored threads contained in the paper.

The envelopes of 1 and 2 pence, without date, also contain two threads, in the

places that are occupied by the stamps.

SWEDEN AND NORWAY.—None of these stamps contain watermarks.

RUSSIA AND POSSESSIONS.—The Russian envelopes bear one of the handsomest known watermarks. It is the Russian arms,



surrounded by a sort of mosaic, analogous to the paving of a vestibule. This is official paper. The engraving we give is that of the 10 kop., black, actually in use. Originally the frame was rectangular on the envelopes of all three values. The new 20 and 30 kop., issued in 1866, have also the oval frame. The 5 kop., blue, has no watermark. We have heretofore noticed the Russian stamps printed in water colors.

For Poland, the paper is formed by a very remarkable checker pattern.

As for Finland, we must recall a remark of Mr. Herpin (Finland stamps). It is that for the stamps of the first series the paper is not waterlined; therefore, all stamps, on water-lined paper, belong to a cut envelope. This distinction, therefore, is not without importance. These envelopes bear no watermarks. Some are on greyish-yellow paper. For the 1856 envelopes water-lined paper was also used, excepting the 2 kop., which is found on both plain and lined paper. On the contrary, the stamps are on plain paper, slightly satined (Regnard). Mr. Herpin has made known an envelope on lined paper, struck with a double stamp, and having a watermark of a large *fleur de lis* (we possess it). Mr. Regnard notes the same particularity, but on an envel-

ope of plain paper not lined. Is it the same? We had designately omitted to report this fact, thinking then, as we do now, that it is but a trade mark of a French paper mill, with no interest to the history of stamps, for in those of that country we only find stars, and never *fleurs de lis*.

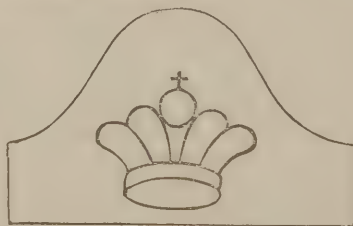
A very large number of this class of unofficial watermarks might be noticed.

The stamps of 1860 are on tinted paper; those of 1866 on colored paper; the 5 and 10 penni on lined paper; the 20 and 40 penni on plain paper, as well as the last 8 penni.

DENMARK.—All the stamps of this country



bear the annexed crown, ever since the date of the emission of the first series, 1851. It is also found on the various stamps of the Danish Indies, and of a little larger size in the stamps of the present series. The 2 and 4 skilling envelopes, emitted in 1865, have the following watermark on the flap:—



NEDERLAND.—The stamps of the first series have for a watermark a post-horn suspended by a buckled strap. These were used from 1852 till 1863. The new series nor the Dutch Indies stamp have no watermark.



LUXEMBOURG.—The stamps of the 10 centimes and 1 silbergroschen of the first series (1852-1859) contain a W. This W is the initial of William III.



(To be continued.)

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

THE ANTIQUITY OF POSTAGE-STAMPS.—Hitherto we have been content to trace back the suggestions for the use of postage stamps to the beginning of the present century, but a communication we lately received decisively proves that stamps were at any rate proposed before the Norman conquest, and that a ruler very like the present Napoleon was then on the French throne. Not to keep our readers any longer in suspense,—we have before us a green stamp about the size of the lately-current French, bearing portrait almost identical with the emperor, and inscribed in the lower margin *oo POSTES oo*, and in the upper *ESSAI 1049*. Some may say that this stamp is but a blundering imposture, and that the date intended to have been given was 1849, but such incredulous people would doubt the existence of the Guatemala stamps.—*Stamp-Collector's Magazine*.

COST OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.—From an interesting table just prepared in the Post-Office Department, showing the cost of the postal service per capita with the amount of revenue compared with the expenditures, it appears that from 1841 to 1845 (old high rates of postage) the cost per capita was 24 cents, and the revenue of the Department was 92 per cent of its expenditures. From 1845 to 1851 (five and 10 cent postage) the cost per capita 22 cents, and the revenue 95 per cent. From 1851 to 1855, cost per capita, 30 cents, and revenue 64 per cent. From 1855 to 1863, cost per capita, 50 cents, and revenue 76 per cent. From 1863 to 1868, cost per capita, 50 cents, and the revenue again reached 93 per cent of the expenditures. It would therefore appear that the present uniform rate of three-cent postage has produced about the same proportion of revenue that the old high rates did, while accommodation afforded to the individual citizen has been nearly doubled in general element with about the same increase of cost, producing a compound ratio of advantage of about four to one, which may be considered as the numerical expression of the value of our present system of postage as compared with the old. In other words, notwithstanding the great increase in accommodation and in the cost of mail transportation, produced by the rapid growth of railroad service and the extension of mail routes in the west-

ern and south-western territories, together with the additional change of all the elements of special accommodation, such as postal cars, route agents, &c. The pro rata productiveness of the cheap postage system compared with its accompanying expenditures is fully equal to that of the old high rate, and greatly in excess of the intermediary or transition rates.

POSTAL ITEMS.—It is reported that the number of letter carriers employed by the British Post-Office Department for the year 1866 was 11,449; and the total expenditures for the same \$2,664,000, being an average of \$232.68 per annum for each man. The number of letter carriers employed by the Post-Office Department of the United States for the year 1866 was 863; and the total expenditures for the same \$589,236, being an average of \$682.77 for each man. The British Post-Office delivered 705,000,000 letters for the year 1866, while the United States Post-Office delivered but 56,000,000. Letter carriers in England receive 74 cents per day, and in the United States \$2.18.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL STAMPS.*

To the Editor of the *American Stamp Mercury*:

Dear Sir, * * * I was quite amused to see that the account I sent you of the officials has been put down as copied; if you will send me the number of the *MERCURY* with the list of these (which I have lost), I shall send you a list of the new ones issued. * * *

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

A. MOROSINI.

Alexandria, February 19, 1869.

* Our readers are referred to Vol. I, pages 1 and 21.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. E. L., Chicago, and others. — As soon as the *MERCURY* is published, on the first of the month hereafter, we mail it to all its subscribers, and are not to blame for your not receiving it. The complaint should be made to the postmaster of your city, and not to us.

C. L. S., Elgin.—1. There is no 15 reis Portuguese stamp with head of Dona Maria. It was a misprint no doubt for 5 reis. 2. Our publishers allow one half of their prices in exchanging stamps. For very rare ones, they sometimes allow more.

J. A. P., Elizabeth.—We perfectly agree with you in regard to the New-York Philatelic Society, and take great pleasure in endorsing your words in yours of April 7th.—“As to the N.-Y.P.S., and persons belonging to it, I have only to say that I can say nothing in its favor. I do not think that it really amounts to much.” You are its Treasurer, are you not?

C. H. S., Elgin.—Lallier's album is considered the best postage-stamp album ever published.

THE STAMP DEALERS OF BOSTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *Stamp-Collectors' Magazine*.

In your May number, you have a long article under the above heading, and as a large portion of the same is written, either intentionally or otherwise, in a manner to seriously damage my character as a dealer in genuine stamps, I feel compelled to give you an explanation of all the share I had or have in the following "Boston impositions."

Guatemala, 5 centavos, brown.

St. Domingo, 2 reales, carmine.

Paraguay, 5, 10, 20, 50 centavos, red, green, blue, blue.

Ecuador, 2, 12 reales, green, red.

Bolivia, 1 peso, blue, red.

Sandwich Islands, 13 cents, red.

Canada, buff paper envelopes.

And in doing so shall confine myself strictly to the truth, which *all* the collectors of any note in Boston or the United States will testify to, as well as incidents known to you as well as to other European dealers and collectors.

I shall commence by saying that in 1861 I commenced collecting stamps; and, by that means, became acquainted with Mr. S. Allan Taylor of this city in 1866. A short time after this, I sold my collection to Mr. Lemuel Pope of Cambridge, and established myself in the stamp business on a small scale. In buying of persons in this city, I very frequently got badly swindled with counterfeits, but at that time had no scruples in selling them over again without warranting them. At that time I had set up and printed 200 of each of the figure issue of the Sandwich Islands. I also, in conjunction with Messrs. Taylor, Seltz, and Frost, all of Boston, had engraved a fine wood-cut copy of the 3 1-8 cent Luzon stamp, paying one quarter of the expenses and receiving one quarter of the stamps. I carried on this nefarious business until June, 1867, when, at the urgent solicitations of personal friends and prominent collectors of Boston,

who promised to give me all the help and encouragement in business, provided I should have nothing to do with counterfeit or fictitious stamps, I issued a circular in which I stated that, on and after date (June 20th, 1867) all stamps sold by me would be warranted genuine. Of course, this made certain parties of this city threaten vengeance and destruction, which, I am happy to state, I am still waiting for. At that time, the Ecuador 2 reales stamps had been circulated some time; and I believed it to be what it represented until, in a private conversation with Mr. Seltz, I found out the character and also the name of the person who got it up: the latter I decline making public, as this article is to defend me and not to accuse others.

When the first news of new stamps for Ecuador reached Boston, the person above alluded to, seeing a good chance for a speculation, had the two reales prepared; and copies of it arriving in England as soon as the real emissions, they were quickly bought by dealers there, and sold no doubt very readily. By this account, you will observe that I had nothing to do in the manufacture of this stamp; and as for disposing of them, I may have done so in a few cases previous to June, 1867. At about this time, the St. Domingo stamp made its appearance, and was condemned by me at first sight, which was in seeing in a collection that Mr. Taylor had for sale, and which belonged to Mr. J. M. Chute, a set of about twelve proofs, in different colors. I had nothing to do either with the selling or making of these beyond disposing of two copies, sent to me from England and warranted genuine, under protest, and which I have since taken back.

In June, if I remember right, that most successful of impositions, the Guatemala stamp, appeared. At first, Mr. Taylor had proofs in four or five colors, and stated to the persons he sold them to, that he did not know which color would be adopted. Shortly after, the stamp appeared properly gummed

and perforated. In this stamp I had at first some confidence, but not enough to state to *any* one that it was a genuine stamp. I very quickly found out or rather guessed at its nature, and, in May, 1868, gave it a fatal blow by publishing a letter from Dr. E. L. Sturtevant of Framingham, in the *MERCURY*. I have had frequent calls from Europe for them; and once being pressed for some, I obtained and sent to Mr. Julius Golner two dozen, which were returned by him, he having no doubt found out their true character. The person of whom I got them in this city charged me \$1 currency for the two dozen, which, you will perceive, is less than their facial value.

Sometime in February, 1868, Mr. H. Loud of Boston called on me and informed me that Mr. Taylor had a Paraguay stamp, and he (Mr. L.) wished my opinion as to its genuineness. I went over to Mr. Taylor's office, and was shown a copy of it. At the time, I thought it strange that the post-mark should be partly in English; but can you blame me if, after only two years' experience, I *questioned* this stamp, when you for a long time *believed* in it? I therefore spoke of it in the *MERCURY* for March. During that time, quite a number were sold, including one unused, to Mr. F. C. Foster, with whom I spoke about the stamp at the time, and told him I did not believe in its genuine character. In April, I again mentioned it in the *MERCURY*, and stated that "we are waiting for something to turn up."

Something did turn up; for we received the letter published in the May number, the original of which was lost in Mr. S. O. Thayer's printing office. This letter was accompanied by one specimen cut off of a newspaper and two stuck on the fragment of an envelope, which had all the appearance of being genuine.

I showed them to Mr. Taylor; and he said to me, in a sarcastic tone, that the person that made the stamp no doubt made the envelope.

From appearances of things, I unfortunately

judged otherwise, and allowed the few remarks on page 46 to go in. Of the three specimens I received, I sold one to Dr. Sturtevant and the others to Mr. F. H. Hunter of West Newton. A few months after, Mr. Taylor showed me a similar envelope, or rather fragment, bearing a postmark of "Rio Janeiro" in one corner and a 5 and two 10 centavos stamps in another. I told Mr. Taylor I did not believe in these stamps, and proceeded to peel them off the envelope, when he cried out not to do so; and before he had a chance to see that part of the envelope under the stamp I was looking at, he said that I must not judge of things by appearances, and that the figures 81 (the number of his office) under the stamps had nothing to do with him. I afterwards bought two lots of mixed South American Stamps from him, each of which contained one or two of each, Ecuador, 12 reales, Bolivia, 1 peso blue, and Paraguay, 5 centavos. These I sold to parties in Boston, with the agreement that I should take them back if they proved bogus. They have proved so; and I have kept my agreement. For further particulars of this stamp, I refer you to page 50, Vol. II of the *MERCURY*.

I now have to clear myself of the charge of fathering the Bolivias and Ecuador, 12 reales. In May, 1868, a boy called at my office and showed me some stamps that he wanted to sell. I bought the lot, and, in sorting them over, found one of each of the above. I took it for granted, never having seen one, that the Bolivia 1 peso was the one spoken of in the Magazines, and therefore put it in my collection, as I also did the 12 reales, Ecuador, which I accidentally took to be a 4 reales, and did not find out my mistake until looking over my collection at Messrs. J. W. Scott & Co.'s office in New York. I noticed it in July and August, and the statement I then made, and with which you trip me up, I can not give any excuse for, but that I conjectured that it "was issued early in the year." As for the Bolivias, I

have never said anything in their favor. Other Boston Dealers are selling sets of six—2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 centavos—for 10 cents a set, “warranted genuine or the money refunded.”

In relation to the Sandwich Island 13 cents, I again refer you to the *MERCURY*, page 55, Vol. II.

The last thing that I am accused of manufacture or aiding to manufacture is the Canada envelopes on buff paper. Were this not a serious matter, I should be inclined to treat this as a joke. I have *always* considered them impositions. When I was in New York, Mr. J. A. Petrie offered me fifty sets or more at the prices he received from a firm in England; viz., 1 s. a set. I told him “they were impositions”: upon which he proceeded to give an account about how Mr. Nesbitt had made them for a particular friend of a particular friend of his; and that apprehending some trouble, upon being asked, they denied their ever having made them.

A likely story, that this firm should be so devoid of honor as to manufacture hundreds of *forgeries* for “particular friends of particular friends.” Believe me when I tell you that the Canada envelopes on buff paper are better, far better known by Mr. Petrie than by me. I have his letters to me with propositions about these same. Speaking about letters, where is the one in which I offered a certain price for these envelopes. I will give \$100 for a look at it. But enough.

Before closing, allow me to say a few words about that “rather formidable document.” Mr. Pope wrote that letter, and I got all the endorsements myself from the signers. The counterfeits they speak of were not *counterfeits* but *fictitious* stamps, as follows:—

Lemuel Pope, Ecuador 12 r., Bolivia 1 p., Paraguay 5 c.

T. W. Brewer, none.

A. Robeson, jr., Ecuador 12 r., Bolivia 1 p.

F. E. Hunter, Ecuador 12 r., Bolivia 1 p., Paraguay 5 c.

F. H. Story, Ecuador 12 r., Bolivia 1 p.
Geo. Fuller, none.

Now I shall conclude by asking you a few questions, if I am guilty of selling forged or false stamps.

Why did I never send them to Europe?

Why did I publish letters condemning them?

Why have I not sold more than, at the most, six of each kind?

Why, after paying a high price for them, I should take them back of the above persons, refunding from 30 to 75 cents for each, and sell them to Mr. C. A. Lyford, in presence of witnesses, as forged stamps at the rate of about \$1.00 per dozen?

Why should I have sold three to Mr. G. H. Dunbar of New Bedford as forgeries for 3 cents each?

Why should I want to buy ‘buffs’ of Mr. Petrie if I made them? I ought to have enough myself.

Why should prominent citizens of Boston and the United States subscribe their names to statements that they know or even think are false?

Why should I make these statements; and you not be able to contradict them?

That Boston produces impositions, I grant. That some dealers of Boston are thieves, swindlers, &c. according to your thinking, I will also grant. But because I am unfortunate enough to be in Boston with these parties, does it naturally follow that I am also one of them? It does not: no more than because Mr. ——— states a thing to be true, it naturally follows such. I had shown me some Zurich stamps lately for my opinion, the person telling me that Mr. ——— had pronounced them genuine. I told him, as I tell you now, *that they were forgeries*. Either Mr. ——— does make mistakes, or else some persons do not always speak truthfully. Why should everything be Boston forgeries?

In conclusion, I call your attention to the facts above stated, and advise you, nay, command you, if I may use the term, to make further inquiries, and make them known to the world. By all means, take the assistance of American collectors, if you can get any, after treating their first step, in the manner in which you have done; and when you have found out the truth, let us know it. If you hear of anything against me or the firm, publish it, and I promise you that I will publish it in my own magazine if it is true; but be an impartial judge, and publish all you can find in my favor, also. Do not always consider a person by the company he keeps, and do not bring as an evidence against a man his own defence.

Do, as you say you always do, what is right, and, whether you fairly find me "guilty" or "not guilty," you will receive the thanks of,

Yours respectfully,

F. TRIFET.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

The preliminary meeting of this Society was held on Saturday, the 10th of April, at 93 Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, for considering the rules to be decided upon, and to discuss the merits of such an association.

The chair was taken by Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., F.R.G.S., and the meeting was opened with a few remarks from Mr. Atlee, who said:—

"It is now eighteen months since the idea of a Philatelic Society was broached in the magazines. It is, therefore, with feelings of pleasure that I reflect that we have now made a start in earnest, and I sincerely trust and believe it will be a successful one. Before proceeding further, it will be necessary to state what I have done in the matter, but I hope you will exonerate me from being guilty of egotism. I have written to forty-nine collectors, and have received most encouraging

replies from nearly all of them. We know the proverb, *quot homines tot sententiæ*; but I must say that philatelists appear to agree very well as to the general advantages of a Society, although as to rules and minor details, there is certainly some diversity of opinion.

Now, as regards obtaining particulars of the exact dates of issue of every stamp (which is a most important branch of study), I should propose that the Secretary write to post-masters for that information, and, on receipt of it, cause it to be read at the meetings. In course of time, we shall be able to compile a catalogue, giving all varieties of color, watermark, and perforation; but as the amassing of materials for a complete catalogue would take a long time, monographs might be published in the interim. These would have to be arranged on the so-called French system, which would leave everyone to retain or reject what he might think proper. I do trust that we shall co-operate in affecting the purpose for which we have met to-day, and sinking all petty differences of English and French schools, devote our energies for the benefit of the science in general."

The following rules were then discussed, and approved:—

1st.—That the Society be called *The Philatelic Society, London*.

2nd.—That the objects of the Society be to collect all possible information respecting postage stamps, the prevention of forgeries, the facilitating and spreading of the knowledge of philately, and the facilitating the acquisition and exchange of postage stamps among Members.

3rd.—That all the amateurs be eligible for elections as members of the Society.

4th.—The mode of election to be as follows: candidates for admission to be proposed in writing by a member, and elected by ballot, by majority of votes.

5th.—The annual subscription to be six shillings, paid in advance on being admitted a member of the Society, and annually on the 1st of December.

6th.—The business of the Society to be

conducted by a Committee, composed of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and five other members. Three members to constitute a quorum.

7th.—The election of the Committee of Direction to take place by ballot at the annual meeting of the Society to be held on the first Saturday in May, by the majority of votes of the members present.

8th.—A monthly meeting to be held in London at 3 p. m. on the first Saturday of every month, at such place as the Committee may appoint.

9th.—The Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Society.

10th.—The funds of the Society to be in the hands of the Treasurer, who is to present the balance-sheet of the Society to the Committee in time, that it may be audited and laid before the Society at the annual general meeting in the month of May.

The above rules having been agreed to, Mr. Philbrick proposed (seconded by Mr. Hayns) that the amateurs constitute themselves *The Philatelic Society, London*. This being carried, the following gentlemen were named to form the Provisional Committee of the Society.

President.—Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., F. R. G. S.

Vice President.—Frederick A. Philbrick, Esq.

Secretary.—W. Dudley Atlee, Esq.

Members of Committee.—Edward L. Pemberton, Esq., Charles W. Vinér, Esq., A. M., Ph. D., Thomas F. Erskine, Esq., J. Sperenza, Esq., R. M. F. Artillery, W. E. Hayns, Esq.

The Secretary was requested to place himself in communication with the philatelic journals, and ask them to publish the proceedings of the meeting.

A meeting of the Committee was appointed for Saturday, the 17th of April, for the purpose of taking the necessary steps to procure a room for the meetings of the Society, and to transact other business.

The adjourned meeting of the Committee was held at Mr. Philbrick's chambers on the

17th ult. The President in the chair. The chief business transacted was the altering of the date of the Annual General Meeting (for this year) from the 1st to the 15th of May.

The arrangements necessary for the furtherance of the objects of the Society were discussed at considerable length, and the meeting was adjourned till the 1st of May.

Letters to be addressed: The Secretary, Philatelic Society, London, 127, St. George's Road, Warwick Square, S. W.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—We have seen sets of a new emission of stamps purporting to be used by a steamer plying between St. Thomas and Porto Rico. The design consists of a steamer to the right, with a crown, sceptre, and sword above it, and CLARA ROETHE below it. At top, ST. THOMAS, PORTO RICO; at bottom, value in letters.

$\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2, 3, and 4 centavos, black.

$\frac{1}{2}$ real. blue.

1 “ orange.

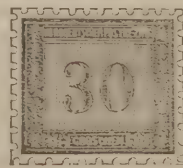
2 “ mauve.

4 “ green.

We have seen all of the above excepting the $\frac{1}{2}$ centavo gummed and perforated; also the four high values ungummed and unperforated.

As we do not wish to be accused in future of having been concerned in the making of these, we take this occasion to state that we are inclined to believe that these stamps, like the La Guaira on colored paper, are of European invention. But we shall see what we shall see.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—Below we give illustrations of the two stamps



described in our last. The $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 slgr. are now perforated.

FERNANDO Po.—Can our readers imagine how easy it is to take one of the current Cuba stamps and substitute for the word ULTRAMAR, FERNANDO POO, and for CENT, 1869, CEN. DE. ESC.? Still it has been done, either by some speculative inventor of stamps or by the powers that be in this settlement. This stamp—20 cen. de esc., brown or white—was only used for a few weeks, and of course is very rare.

URUGUAY.—The one centesimi journal stamp of this Republic has been withdrawn from a most satisfactory cause—it is no longer wanted, the journals themselves being now carried by the post free of charge.—*S. C. Magazine*.

HOLLAND.—Another low value of this design has been issued. It is printed upon thick, unwatermarked paper, and perforated. Color, rose.



DOMINION OF CANADA.—The color of the three-cent stamp has been changed from orange to carmine red, which makes it still more distinguishable from the one cent.

FRANCE.—Two stamps of which we will give an illustration of the design next month, have been issued, which, being printed in colors, increase the number to six. The colors are:—

- 2 and 5 centimes, violet.
- 2 and 5 “ blue.
- 2 and 5 “ red.

The violet pair represent the *tax* on the journal and should not be entitled to a place in a collection of *postage* stamps. The blue pair represent in addition to the tax the departmental postage of 2 c. The red pair indicate the tax and the general postage of 4 c. These four last are postage stamps, and as such should be collected.

MARITIUS.—The *S. C. Magazine* states that no two-shilling stamp has been issued.

BELGIUM.—The 2-c. is now printed on the same color as the 20-c.,—pearlish-lilac.

BAVARIAN.—Annexed is the engraving promised in our last. As our readers will see, the design is neat but not gaudy.



MEXICO.—We have received some of the 4-reales, red on white, postmarked 1867. Also the one real, head of Hidalgo, black on color; UN REAL, black on *rose*. The one we describe, with four others like it, came uncut among five complete, all but the first issue, unused sets of Mexican stamps which our publisher a short time ago purchased from an agent of a person who had received them from Mexico. It is no doubt a misprint, and exceedingly rare.

ROUMANIA.—Besides the values announced in our last, we have seen:

- 15 bani, scarlet.
- 50 “ blue and scarlet.

HATTI.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 real are now printed in greenish-grey and magenta respectively.

STAMPS TO BE ISSUED.

SERVIA.—Complete set, with head of Prince Milan.

ROMAN STATES.—Complete Set.

RUSSIA.—Adhesives, with head of Emperor.

REVIEW OF POSTAL PUBLICATIONS.

A Descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign Postage Stamps. New York: J. W. Scott & Co.

The June, 1869, edition lies before us. Several improvements have been made on the last, among which are to be noted the omission

of the "splendidly-colored engravings," which are replaced by cuts sprinkled in the twenty-four pages that compose the book. As a strict guide to collectors it is not of much use, as issues such as the United States of 1851-57 are catalogued 1851, and France, 1853-63, are under 1853; we also find Cape of Good Hope, 1857, instead of 1853, Canada, 1856, instead of 1851-56, &c. Barring these mistakes, it is commendable and will answer the purpose for which it is issued — advertising the prices of stamps to the publishers' rich friends, for they must be rich to pay the prices at which some of the stamps are quoted. Typographically it is a failure, as on page seven the column-rule is made of *seven* pieces, and is too short; some columns are shorter than others, and many other mistakes are too glaring to pass unnoticed. As a whole it does not give credit to the firm who have the honor of being so far the only ones, besides our publishers, who were the first, to issue a complete price catalogue.

The American Journal of Philately. New York: J. W. Scott & Co.

The May number is before us, and all we find of any interest in it is in the transactions of the so-called society, by which we see that Mr. J. W. Scott has resigned, no doubt having found out that a membership in that society was worse than than no membership at all. This is as it should be. A new United States six-cent stamp with head of Franklin is spoken of. Will the editor inform us of it, as we do not know of such a thing.

A descriptive Catalogue of American and Foreign Postage Stamps issued from 1840 to July, 1869. Fifth Edition. Boston: F. Trifet & Co.

Our publishers, having been the first ones to issue complete catalogues in this country, are now the first and only ones to issue one quoting stamps at both retail and wholesale. This publication, which will be ready July 1st,

gives a description, including correct dates, of each and every stamp issued by governments up to the latest moments of going to press. In the shape of improvements, we find that the columns of prices are all ruled, and the engravings are withdrawn from the matter and printed fifteen on a page, which are bound up with the twenty-five cent copies. The prices quoted are only for stamps in stock, and no disappointment will be felt by persons ordering, as they are sure of getting what they want at the prices quoted. Many dealers, wishing to hurt our publishers' trade, tell collectors that the stamps can not be furnished by them at the low prices named. By this arrangement this excuse is entirely made away with, as they advertise to send and will send all the stamps that are priced in the catalogue at the prices named. These are not lower, but as low as *any* dealers, to prove which collectors have only to compare, and as the catalogue is to be issued semi-monthly or oftener, the chances are that the publishers will make use of the power they have in keeping their prices *as low* as others.

The catalogue is "set up" entirely by a master printer, printed by Alfred Mudge & Son, city printers, of Boston, on the best of paper, with the best of type, rules, &c., and no expense has been spared to make this the handsomest, best, cheapest, and most correct price catalogue ever issued by any dealer or firm in the world. The first edition of 500 cost over \$200; and we are assured by the publishers that their sole aim in charging for them is to prevent the unnecessary waste of so costly a publication of the kind.

The American Journal of Philately states that the following U. S. revenues have never been issued: 3-cent inland exchange, 10-cent insurance, 10-cent playing cards, 25 and 50 bill of sale of vessels, 50-cent lottery ticket*, \$1.00 charter party, \$10.00 manifest.

* This one has been seen by a Boston collector.

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POST-AGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

(Continued from page 59.)

The paper of these stamps is half white, while that of the stamps in actual use is white and unwatermarked.

BELGIUM.—The 10 and 20 centimes stamps of the first series (portrait without frame) in use in 1849 and 1850 contain a watermark of two L's, forming the monogram of King Leopold. They are also found in stamps of the second series used in 1850 of the values of 10, 20, and 40 centimes. These letters in the second series are sometimes surrounded by lines forming a frame. We are unaware of the date that the watermark ceased to be used. We can only state that the 1-centime stamp emitted in 1861, as well as the perforated and unperforated stamp of the recently emitted specimens, bear no watermark. The stamps with the arms and head, of 1865-67, are on unwatermarked, glazed paper.

FRANCE.—The paper of the French stamps is merely tinted of the same color as that used in the printing. The stamps of the French colonies are made by the same system. A few essays with threads are found in some collections.

HELVETIAN CONFEDERATION.—The cantonal stamps have nothing of interest. The federal stamps of 5 and of 10 rappen of the first series (1849-1854) are upon colored paper. The stamps of the second series (1854-1862), Helvetia fronting, bear a silk thread in the paper. Those of the third



series (1862) bear a watermark of an oval, inside of which is the federal cross. A few 5-rappen stamps are said not to have any watermark.

April 1st, 1867, a 10 centime stamp appeared which has a dove for a watermark.



PRUSSIA.—The stamps of the first issue, (1850-56), partly printed in colors on white (4 and 6 pfennige), and partly in black on colors (1, 2, and 3 silbergroschen), all have a laurel wreath for a watermark. This is useful in detecting the original from the reprints of 1864.



This watermark is not found in the latter issues.

All the envelopes of the first series without inscription contain in the paper two silk threads. The reprints of 1864 have no threads.

None of the present Prussian stamps contains threads or watermarks.

We will just mention the **OLDENBURG** stamps, the two first issues of which are printed on colored paper without any watermark.

(To be continued.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. M., Paris, France.—We wrote on March 26th, and have received no answer. What is the cause of the delay?

MASON & Co., Philadelphia.—Some time ago we wrote you inquiring the reasons you had for mentioning our name in your last, and enclosed a stamp for a reply. Why have you not answered?—is it for lack of courtesy? or are in need of stamps? We will be happy to teach you the first, and give you some of the latter.

G. W. B., New York.—The 12 cuartos, orange, of Spain, same design as 1857 series, was issued in 1860.

OUR NEW NAME.

Nearly two years ago, seeing the need that was felt of a good paper devoted to Timbrophily, we commenced publishing the *MERCURY*, and to many inquiries, during that time, of why it was not made a Numismatic as well as a Timbrophilic paper, we always answered that two magazines on the former subject were enough. That we were mistaken, our Numismatic friends will at once see, for though there are two Magazines published in this country devoted to the collecting of coins, the editor of one is so learned, and the articles of the magazine so profound, that it will never be a popular magazine, though it should be read by every collector who takes an interest in his collection. The editor of the other has the misfortune to lack what his brother has too much of, viz: that much needed, but seldom found, article, common sense. We have often wondered whether the Timbrophilic or the Numismatic articles in its columns were the least correct, but have not yet been able to solve this problem.

Seeing the above state of things, we have determined to establish a Magazine that will be popular, or, in other words, one that can be understood by, and teach something to, everyone that reads it.

To do this, we have enlarged the *MERCURY*, and will hereafter publish indiscriminately the best available articles on coins and stamps. This will include:—

Original articles on American and foreign coins and medals by the best writers in America.

Original translations from the best foreign authorities.

Descriptions of newly-issued or inedited coins and stamps.

Reviews of numismatic and timbrophilic publications.

Transactions of the New England Numismatic and Archeological Society and the Boston Numismatic Society.

Descriptions of forged coins and stamps.

Transactions of the Philatelic Society, London.

And, in addition, correspondence upon all subjects in our line. We will also be happy to give any information in our power to our readers, through the Answers to Correspondents column.

The whole to be illustrated with over one hundred engravings per year.

Our timbrophilic friends, who have perused our columns, will need no further inducements to recommend us to their friends; and before closing, we have only to say that the more subscribers we shall have the larger will the magazine be; and to facilitate this, all our present subscribers will have to do is to induce their friends to take, and thus make sure the success of, the *AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST*.

The Public's humble servants,
THE PUBLISHERS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF NUMISMATOLOGY.

BY NEMO.

READ BEFORE THE NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

When we consider the great importance of the sciences of Archeology and Numismatology in the promotion of a true history of a nation, or of events that have transpired in the world, it is much to be regretted that they have been so long neglected by men pursuing similar branches of science, or ridiculed by thoughtless persons who know or care nothing more about a coin than its market value in exchange for some article of every-day trade.

That the sciences, the study of which is the object of this Society, abound in subjects teeming with valuable information to the historian, scholar, and pleasure-seeker is every day becoming more apparent to the comparatively few persons who are now pursuing such studies is indubitable; and it is extremely gratifying to know that we are in a fair way

of having the merits of our sciences thoroughly tested, and the number of our ranks largely increased. Among the evidences upon which I base my assertions not the least is the fact that ably-conducted journals, devoted to the promulgation of our favorite subjects, have been established in the United States, the first publication of the kind having appeared in New York. All hail to them! and may they meet that pecuniary encouragement which their importance demands.

Another evidence of our progress is the formation of societies in our midst for the promotion of the interest in our favorite themes, whereby we are brought more in contact with each other, thus affording better opportunities for an exchange of views, and where we become better acquainted socially. It is highly pleasing to notice the avidity with which coin collectors and antiquarians fraternize when conversing on their much-loved topics. Let these things continue,—let us assist each other by acts and by words, and we will soon take a stand in advance of many of the “isms” and “ologies” that have attracted the attention of eminent men for years past.

Some of the coin collectors—a **VERY** few, however—seem eager to possess a rare coin or medal merely for the sake of *having it*; not once thinking of its history,—why it was struck, where it was struck, and by whom. It is a rare coin, and prized *only as such*! Would they but learn its history,—connect it with the event it was intended to commemorate,—or with the purpose for which it was struck,—that coin or medal would be enhanced ten-fold in value, and be much more highly prized than if possessed merely as a *rarity*.

But let a person who *loves* the study of numismatology possess a coin or a medal, and he straightway informs himself of the events connected with its origin; and, while pursuing that study which to him is a *pleasure*, he is adding to his knowledge of men, of events, of

history generally, and fixing them more truthfully and more indelibly upon his mind by his silent metallic teachers than he could by most of the elaborately-printed and ponderous books treating upon the same subjects.

Aside from the *pleasure* derived from these studies, we have the *profit* of an increase of knowledge on other subjects which may oft-times be of great value to us. One collector, who makes Greek and Roman coins a speciality, being unable at the commencement of his studies to decypher the inscriptions on the former coins, has taught himself the Greek alphabet; and he is now able to interpret many of the words and characters appearing on those coins.

In tracing the history of an old coin or medal we learn of the manners, of the customs, and of the religions of its people; we gather from that mute mentor the ability of the artist who made the dies, and of the workman who struck the coin, and by that knowledge we can judge of the condition of the people,—whether they were a warlike or a peaceful nation,—whether of refined or cultivated tastes, or of a wild and turbulent nature. In the earlier ages,—several hundred years before the Christian era,—the coins were rude and uncouth, but they had a meaning which is obvious to the numismatologist of the present day. Rapidly they advanced in beauty of design and workmanship, until were produced coins and medals which command the admiration of the beholder at the present time; and by these coins and medals we learn what can not be obtained from any other source,—that the Greeks, before the birth of Christ, were an idolatrous, but otherwise a refined and cultivated, people..

Then, gradually, medallie art declined, as is shown by the coins of subsequent periods. The Roman coins—never so good as the Greek—grew poorer in execution and in value; gold and silver coins became almost extinct, and made way for a profuse supply of

badly-executed copper coins of inferior size and value, hardly worth a place in anyone's cabinet, till at last, in that period of the world's history known as the Dark Ages, coins became almost unknown,—the few rude specimens extant proving that the people had degenerated also.

All these facts, and many more, do coins and medals prove.

HISTORY OF THE ROMAN LETTERS, ESTABLISHED AND PROVED BY MANY BEAUTIFUL ANTIQUES. PARIS, 1684.

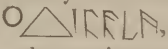
FROM THE JOURNAL DES SçAVANS, JAN. 31, 1684.

Translated from the French by S. H. C.

Those who yield to the opinions of the Hebrew Cabal believe that the Scriptures are as ancient as the world; and, relying on this passage of Psalms, "extendens Coelum sicut pellem," say that God has spread out the Heavens like a parchment on which he has written, with characters of fire, the destiny of the world. These characters are no other, according to them, than the stars and the constellations which formed the letters of the alphabet of the ancient Hebrews, as Gassarael tries to prove, in his Book of Unknown Curiosities, by argument and figures.

Although it may be that the authority of Josephus is of sufficiently great weight to persuade us that letters and writing were known before the Deluge, for he directly assures us that the children of Seth, foreseeing that the world would be destroyed by the deluge, after which it would appear again, were careful to leave, by writing, to posterity (on two columns which they raised, one of brick and the other of stone, of which the remains could be seen in his time) all that they had learned from Adam, their ancestor, both of the science of astrology and of other parts of natural philosophy.

This knowledge, having been gathered after the Deluge by the children of Noah, was handed down, according to tradition, by writ-

ten letters to their descendants, as Moses, Abraham, the Chaldeans, and the Israelites; and these last taught them afterwards to the Greeks in the commerce which they had with them, while they groaned in Egypt under the oppression of Pharaoh. However, some believe that they were carried from Phœnicia into Greece by Cadmus, who built the city of Thebes, about the year of the world 2600; and a hundred years afterwards Janus carried them from Greece to the country of the Latins or aborigines, where he built a city on a hill which he called after his own name, Janiculum. Saturn, driven from his country by his son Jupiter, stopping there in his flight, Janus received him and gave him a share in the government of his kingdom; in recompense for which he taught the people agriculture and other arts. He, above all, taught them to make money from copper, on which were put the heads of Janus and himself, back to back as is seen in a coin of that time, the letters on which are drawn like the Greek characters, particularly the *Δ* and the *Λ*, in this manner  *Odicela*. Pliny also says that the ancient Greek letters were like the Roman characters, as he proves by the writing of the tablet of Delphos which was preserved in the Library of the Temple of Minerva at Rome, where it could be seen in his time.

From Janus to the foundation of Rome there elapsed about 700 years, during which the use of stamped money, which was called 'pecunia signati,' was lost by the Latins, notwithstanding that they made use, for the purposes of trade, of copper in masses or weight, which they called 'as grave' or the *heavy as*. Servius Tullius, third king of the Romans, according to Pliny, recommended stamping money. The most common figures which he gave it were the heads of Janus and Saturn back to back, with, for a reverse, the prow of a ship, or an ox or some other animal; whence these pieces were called 'pecunia a pecude.'

In the year 485 from the foundation of the city, after the Romans had subjugated many nations, and had amassed a great quantity of silver from their spoils, and from tribute which they received from them, they commenced to coin a kind of money, the first of which, made under the consulate of Fabius Pictor, bears these letters, very well formed, EX.A. PV., which signifies *ex argento publico* (from the public money).

As time and the arts advanced in the city of Rome, until the end of the age of Augustus, who followed 240 years after the Consul spoken of above, they carried the arts and sciences to the greatest perfection, as we see at no other time a greater number of skilful workmen, or of truly learned persons.

They took so great a care, under this happy reign, of the fabrication of money that we find medals of more than 60 mint-masters under Augustus who worked in emulation of each other. Therefore we have such beautiful medals of this Emperor, with characters so clear, so correct, and so well proportioned, that we can see nothing better after that period.

But as it is the property of everything in this world to soon fall off from perfection, after they have been so for a short time, the sciences were hardly of a century's duration before we see them degenerated, as can be sensibly seen in the medals of Alexander Severus, of which the letters are poorer, hard, and badly proportioned.

As we descend into the Lower Empire, we find more corruptions in the characters of medals and inscriptions. Those of Maximian and Diocletian are still worse formed, and fainter than the preceding. Those of Justinus and Justinian are still worse. And, finally, the Greeks and the Goths having mixed their letters with the Romans, while the one built the new Rome under Constantine, and the other ruined the old one under Honorius, their medals have become so difficult to read

that the patience and skill of M. du Cange in decyphering them, to give them to the public, as he has done, is a great subject for admiration.

This corruption of writing as well as of languages, which is produced by the mixture of nations, is remarked in France as well as elsewhere. Father Mabillon, who has taken great pains in searching for and in engraving the characters of all ages, points it out in the first race of our kings, who mixed the Roman and barbarian letters. We even find it in the beautiful Latin characters of the Psalter of St. Germain, which are in silver upon purple vellum, which was used as far back as the time of St. Jerome, who says, "*Inficiuntim membrana colore pimpuseo; aurum liquescit in litteras.*" And we see Gallic and Roman letters in an epitaph of that time found on a tomb stone near the Abbey of St. Acheuil at Amiens; which epitaph has been sent to the Library of St. Genevieve, and which is pictured in the book of the Coins of France, by M. Bouteroue. It is without doubt since the Christian era, because upon it we see a cross. On one side is the name of a woman, and on the other that of her husband, in this manner: **KEUDEKINUF**, &c., Leudelinus, of which all the letters are Roman, except L and S, which are barbarian.

After the beautiful Roman characters had been lost and entirely corrupted for four or five centuries, they began to revive under the empire of Charlemagne and of Louis le Debonnaire, as we can see by their money; and they recovered finally their greatest perfection under this flourishing empire. This is proved by a manuscript in the Library of St. Genevieve, which is a book of the four Gospels, written on vellum in letters of gold, about the time of Louis le Debonnaire or of Charles the Bald.

(To be continued.)

Mr. Cogan, of New York, the well-known numismatist, has several coin sales on the *tapis*.

LIST OF UNITED STATES ENVELOPES.

We propose giving a list of all envelopes, giving the varieties that we have in our possession, and which we believe to be almost a complete set. We would be obliged if any readers would inform us as to any variety they may have, sending us the same, for inspection, if practicable. The size of the envelopes is given, between brackets, in inches and eighths.

1853.

Large oval. Head of Washington to left.

- 3 cents (4.6x2.7), red upon white.
 3 " " orange-red upon white.
 3 " (5.4x3.2), " "
 3 " " red "
 3 " " upon four different

shades of buff.

3 cents (5.4x3.2), with 'Pat. Nov. 20, 1855' and three parallel lines inside of envelopes: red upon buff.

6 cents (8.5x4.7), red upon white.

6 " " upon two shades of buff paper.

- 6 cents (5.4x3.2), blue-green upon white.
 6 " " yellow-green "
 6 " " " upon buff.
 6 " " blue-green "
 10 " " dark-green upon white.
 10 " " light-green "
 10 " " " upon buff.
 10 " " dark-green upon two

shades of buff.

The same with the engine work at the sides, larger, leaving less space on the sides of the words TEN and CENTS.

- 10 cents (5.4x3.2), dark-green upon white.
 10 " " " upon buff.

1857.

Small oval. Head of Franklin to right.

1 cent (5.4x3.2), blue upon five shades of buff.

1 cent (5.4x3.2), with 'Pat. Nov. 20, 1855,'

and the vertical lines inside of envelopes: blue upon buff.

1860.

Small oval. Head of Washington to right.

- 3 cents (4.5x2.5), red upon white.
 3 " (4.6x2.7), " "
 3 " (5.3x3.1), " "
 3 " (5.4x3.2), " "
 3 " " " upon buff.
 3 " (5.3x3.0), with 'Pat. Nov. 20, 1855,' and three parallel lines inside of envelope: red upon buff.
 6 cents (8.5x3.7), red upon buff.
 6 " " " upon white.
 10 " (5.4x3.2), green "
 10 " " light-green upon buff.
 10 " " dark-green "

Small ovals. Heads of Franklin and Washington facing.

- 4 cents (5.4x3.2), blue and red upon white.
 4 " " with 'Pat. Nov. 20, 1855,' and three vertical lines inside the envelope: blue and red upon white.

5 cents (5.4x3.2), with 'Return to if not delivered within . . . days' in three lines at side: blue and red upon white.

4 cents (5.4x3.2), light-blue and red upon buff.

4 cents (5.4x3.2), dark-blue and red upon buff.

4 cents (5.4x3.2), with 'Return to if not delivered within . . . days' in three lines at side: blue and red upon buff.

1861.

Oval. Head of Washington to left; small numerals at sides.

- 3 cents (4.5x2.7), pink upon white.
 3 " (5.4x3.2), " "
 3 " " " upon two shades of buff.
 6 oblong (8.5x3.7), pink upon white.
 6 " " " upon two shades of buff.

Oblong. Washington to left, in oval.

- 10 cents (5.4x3.3), green upon white.
 10 " " light-green upon white.
 10 " " with 'If not delivered within
 10 days, return to' in one line at side: green
 upon white.
 10 cents (5.4x3.2), light-green upon buff.
 10 " " dark-green "
 10 " " with 'If not delivered within
 10 days, to be returned to' in one line at side:
 green upon buff.
 12 cents (8.7x3.6), red and brown upon buff.
 20 " (9.4x3.7), red and blue "
 24 " (9.6x4.1), red and green "
 40 " " red and black "

1863.

*Hexagonal. Head of Jackson to left. U. S.
POSTAGE at top.*

- 2 cents (5.4x3.2), black upon three shades
 of buff.
Same. U. S. POSTAGE at top.
 2 cents (5.4x3.2), black upon four shades
 of buff.
 2 cents (6.2x3.4), black upon buff.

Same. Die much broader.

- 2 cents (5.4x3.2), black upon two shades of
 buff.

1864.

Large oval. Head of Washington to left.

- 3 cents (4.2x2.7), pink upon white.
 3 " " with 'Return to if
 not delivered within . . . days' in three lines
 at sides: pink upon white.
 3 cents (5.4x3.2), pink upon white.
 3 " " with 'Pat. Nov. 20, 1855,'
 and three parallel lines inside of envelope:
 pink upon white.
 3 cents (5.4x3.2), with 'If not delivered
 within 10 days, return to' in one line at
 sides: pink upon white.
 3 cents, same as last, with 'Pat. Nov. 20,
 1855,' and three parallel lines inside of
 envelope.

- 3 cents (6.2x3.4), pink upon white.
 3 " " with 'If not delivered within
 10 days, return to' in one line at sides: pink
 upon white.
 3 cents (5.4x3.2), pink upon three shades
 of buff.
 3 cents (5.4x3.2), inscription inside: pink
 on buff.
 3 cents (5.4x3.2), inscription outside: pink
 on three shades of buff.
 3 cents (5.4x3.2), inscription outside and
 inside: pink on buff.
 3 cents (6.2x3.4), pink on buff.
 3 " " inscription outside: pink
 on buff.
 6 cents (9.0x3.7), pink on white.
 6 " " " on two shades of buff.

1866.

Same as 1864.

- 3 cents (9.0x3.7), brown on white.
 3 " " " on two shades of
 buff.
 6 cents (5.4x3.2), violet upon white.
 6 " " inscription outside: violet
 upon white.
 6 cents (5.4x3.2), violet upon buff.
 6 " " inscription outside: violet
 upon buff.

Oblong. Head of Washington to left.

- 9 cents (9.0x3.7), yellow upon buff.
 9 " " orange "
 12 " " brown "
 18 " (10.0x4.0), red "
 24 " " blue "
 30 " " green "
 40 " " pink "

LETTER SHEETS.

1861.

*Same design as envelopes, printed upon patent
letter sheets and envelope combined.*

- 3 cents (11.5x7.7), pink upon blue.
 3 " (14.0x10.0), " "

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

1857.

Small oval. Head of Franklin to right.

1 cent (10.0x6.0), blue upon five shades of buff.

1 cent (11.0x6.0), blue upon orange.

*Hexagonal. Head of Jackson to left. U. S.
POSTAGE at top.*

2 cents (9.0x6.0), black upon manilla.

Same. U. S. POST at top.

2 cents (8.0x4.0), black upon manilla.

Same. Broader die.

2 cents (8.0x4.0), black upon manilla,

2 " (8.0x6.0), " upon buff.

Total, 119 varieties.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

We will commence our list of novelties this month by an entire set of stamps for a new country, viz:—

ANTIOQUIA.—This one of the 'United States of Columbia' has issued a set of stamps which closely resembles the lately-issued stamps of the mother country. "In an oval are the arms of Columbia, surmounted by the typical nine stars, and encircled by the inscription, E. S. ANTIOQUIA; EE. UU. DE COLUMBIA. At the top of each label is the word CORREOS, and at foot is given the values," which are—

2½ centavos,	blue.
5 "	green.
10 "	mauve.
20 "	chocolate.
1 peso,	rose.

UNITED STATES.—Our well-informed and never-mistaken brother of the *S.-C. Magazine*, in describing our new stamps says:—"The 24c., in which the parts of the design are similarly arranged, and wherein the picture occupies about the same space, is, if anything, still finer than the 15c.; but, as we have already said, the effect is not so good. The

colors which have been chosen are: for the picture, black; for the framework, a delicate green. The contrast is too violent, hence the picture looks at a distance like a little microscopic photograph pasted on the stamp, and does not blend at all with the other portions of the device. Nor does the picture tell its story so well as that on the 15c. We know, simply because we have been told, that it represents the surrender of Sir John Burgoyne, but without prior information we should just as soon have supposed it to be the signing of the declaration of independence, or almost any other great political act which might be performed by a number of persons sitting round a group, of which three or four of the figures are standing, and the remaining one sitting. The original picture at the capitol may plainly enough tell its tale, but in the minute copy before us the coloring of the uniforms of course is not repeated, and there is nothing at a casual glance to indicate that the personages represented are military men." Now had we been told that it was the surrender of Burgoyne, we should have denied it. If we had seen a copy of the stamps, we should have been able in the latter case to distinguish an open field from a room, military men on horseback from soldiers on foot; and, lastly, though not least, we could tell purple from black,—provided we had, as we have said before, a minute copy before us. Ah, learned collaborator, confess that you sometimes err, and if we guessed at the date of the emission of the Ecuador 12 reales, you anticipated the design of the 24-cent stamp. If you would read our columns more carefully, you would have found out some months back that the surrender of Burgoyne would not be represented on any stamp. But, 'where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise.'

ROMAN STATES.—The entire series is now perforated.

PERT.—The one dinero, green, is also perforated.

GAMBIA.—We here give an engraving of the lately-emitted stamps. We have seen a few copies of the sixpenny stamps, and are happy to be able to say that the neat design is but slightly marred by a light canceling mark.



PORTUGAL.—When the 20 reis appears, the set will be perforated.

ITALY.—The old *segna tassa* stamp is to be superseded by one of the subjoined design. It is printed in brown, upon unwatermarked paper, and is perforated.



CEYLON.—The 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 10d., and 2s. stamps are found with the word SERVICE printed across the face, in red on the 6d. and 2s.,—in black on the others.—*S.-C. Magazine.*

TURKEY.—The unpaid letter stamps are now printed with a dark brown frame around the margin.

HOLLAND.—The lately emitted 1 cent stamp has been altered, it being now printed in light green instead of black.

ROUMANIA.—For the benefit of those of



our readers who have not seen them, we illustrate the 15 bani stamp of the new issue. The shades of the present stamps are very marked, and we possess 19 kinds of the 8 stamps.

STAMPS TO BE ISSUED SOON.

FRANCE.—1 and 5 centimes, and 5 francs.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

The adjourned meeting of the committee was held on Saturday, the 1st of May, at Mr. Philbrick's Chambers, Temple. The President in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having

been read and approved, a letter from Mr. Pemberton was read on the subject of raising the subscription, and for electing, for the present, members without ballot. It was proposed by D. Viner, and seconded by Lieut. Speranza, that the subscription should be increased to ten shillings. This was carried, it being considered that the original rate would be insufficient to defray the expenses of a really useful Society. On the proposal of the President, it was decided that the election of members should be conducted according to the fourth rule.

It was agreed to that the general meeting be again postponed to May 29th, in order to give amateurs time to enrol themselves as members of the Society. After the proposing of various names, the meeting adjourned until the 15th of May.

The committee again met on the 15th ult., the President occupying the chair.

Mr. Atlee read letters from amateurs desirous of joining the Society, and their election was then proceeded with.

Lieut. Speranza then mooted the expediency of not increasing the subscription for ladies beyond the original rate of six shillings; and after a general discussion, it was proposed by Lieut. Speranza, seconded by Mr. Hayns, and carried *nem. con.*, "That ladies be admitted as members on payment of a subscription of six shillings."

Mr. Atlee stated that, having to leave town upon mercantile affairs, he was compelled, though with regret, to resign his office as Secretary, but would act until the general meeting. Mr. Hayns was asked to accept the position vacated by Mr. Atlee, and he kindly offered to do so.

A description was then read by a member (Mr. W. H. H.) of an emission of stamps for—

ANTIOQUIA.

These labels are similar in type to those of the last issue for New Granada, and are five in number:—

2½	centavos, blue.
5	" bottle-green.
10	" mauve.
20	" chocolate.
1 peso, dark rose.	

The arms of Colombia, with nine stars above, are displayed in an oval, the angles being filled in with scroll-work. At the top of the stamps is inscribed CORREOS, and at the foot the value in words. Encircling the central oval, is the legend, E. S. DE ANTIOQUIA; E. E. U. T. DE COLOMBIA. The 2½ c. has in the upper right angle the figure 2; in the left, ½. The lower corners have the numerals reversed. In the 5 c., figures are given in each corner; but in the 10 c. and 20 c., they are found in the lower ones only. The one peso has not the value expressed in figures upon any portion of the stamp.

The following were placed on the agenda for reading at the next meeting:—A paper by Sir D. Cooper, Bart., on 'The discovery of the Earliest Sydney Stamp,' and on 'Proofs of Sydney Views.'—Also a description by Mr. Hayns of a stamp for Borovitchi, in Russia.

The meeting then adjourned till the 29th.

NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

An adjourned meeting of this Society was held on July 2nd,—Vice-President Crosby in the chair.

Several donations were reported by the Librarian, among which was an engraved steel plate representing Washington before Boston, which was probably copied from the Mint medal of that name.

Mr. F. J. Dutcher, of Hopedale, was elected a resident member.

Mr. Crosby favored the meeting by the exhibition of an elaborately-wrought ancient vase, which is said to have been centuries old at the beginning of the Christian era. There were on it sixty different forms of the Chinese

character 'Shaou' (set in gold, with emeralds and rubies), representing as many different meanings, according to the inflection, the principal one of which is 'longevity.' It is known to the learned men of China as the 'longevity vase.'

The same gentleman also exhibited a very interesting autograph letter of Washington, of which the following is a literal copy:—

"NEWBURG 5th June 1784.

MY DEAR SIR.

Col^o Hazen's sending an officer under the capitulation of York Town for the purpose of retaliation, has distressed me exceedingly,—Will you be so good as to give me your opinion of the propriety of doing this upon Captain Asgill should we be driven to it for want of an unconditional Prisoner.

Presuming that this matter has been a subject of much conversation pray, with your own, let me know the opinions of the most sensible of those with whom you have conversed.

Congress by their resolve have unanimously approved of my determination to retaliate—the army have advised it—and the country look for it—But how far it is justifiable upon an officer under the faith of a capitulation, if none other can be had, is the question.—

Hazen's sending Capt^a Asgill on for this purpose makes the matter more distressing, as the whole business will have the appearance of a farce if some person is not sacrificed to the manes of poor Huddy; which will be the case if an unconditional prisoner cannot be found, and Asgill escapes—

I write to you in exceeding great haste, but beg your sentiments may be transmitted as soon as possible (by Express) as I may be forced to a decision in the course of a few days.

I am—with much sincerity
and affect

D Sir

Y^r Obed^t Serv^t

G^o WASHINGTON.

Maj^r Gen^l
"LINCOLN."

[Note.—Other letters in relation to this subject may be found in the *Historical Magazine* for September, October, and November, 1865.]

Two beautiful cents of 1814, in perfectly uncirculated condition, were exhibited by Mr.

Child, and were pronounced equal to any cents of that date now extant.

Mr. Cook produced for examination an extremely fine Queen Anne farthing, the beauty and rarity of which elicited quite an animated discussion, during which many important facts connected with this coin were brought out.

Mr. Chaplin offered for inspection a fine half dollar of 1797, which was examined on account of its rarity.

It was voted—That when this meeting adjourn, it be to meet at this place on the third Thursday in September.

After the transaction of further business, of a private character, the meeting adjourned.

DUDLEY R. CHILD, *Secretary.*

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POST-AGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

(Continued from page 68.)

The two MECKLENBURGS have nothing of interest.

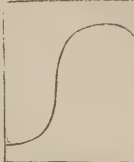
LUBECK.—The first lithographed stamps of 1859 have five-petaled roses for watermarks. The last emissions have no watermark. Neither have the embossed series.



SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.—The stamps issued in 1850 have a silk thread in the paper. Those issued in 1864 and 1865 have only the variety in the design to distinguish them by.

BERGEDORF.—The stamps are printed upon colored paper.

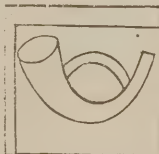
HAMBURG.—The paper has a waved line for a watermark, two curbs of which occupy about the space destined for each stamp.



HANOVER.—The stamps of the first series (1850–55) contain a watermark of an oak-leaves crown (excepting the 1 guten groschen). These stamps are also printed upon colored paper, excepting the 3 pfenige. The presence of this mark serves to distinguish the 3 pfenige claret of the first series from the 3 pf. rose of the third series, which is a reprint without the watermark. The other stamps of Hanover are distinguished by the finish and fineness of the design. This circumstance avoids the employing of watermarks as a preventive of counterfeiting.

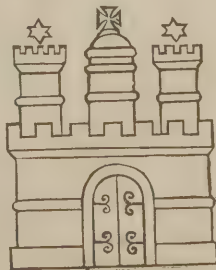


BRUNSWICK.—All stamps of this country, excepting the three of the first emission printed in color upon white, bear a large hunting-horn as watermark. All the succeeding ones, since 1854, on colored paper,



contains this watermark. It is also found on the 1 and 3 silbergroschen lately printed in color upon white; also, on the $\frac{1}{2}$ silbergr., black on green. The last issued stamps bear no watermarks.

BREMEN.—The 3-grote stamp is on lined paper.



The envelopes of the first emission were printed on plain white paper; the latter ones bear on the front a large castle representing the arms of Hamburg city. It measures $7 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ centimetres.

SAXONY, the duchy of BADEN, and the office of Thurn and Taxis, for Germany, have nothing to point out excepting a few colored papers used for the first emissions or for the unpaid-postage stamps (land-post).

BAVARIA. — The first series (numeral in a square frame) bear no silk threads at first, but in the later emissions the paper prepared for second series was used.

For the second and third series, which only differ in the colors of the respective denominations, and for the fourth series, with arms, a red silk thread crosses the paper vertically. In the unpaid postage stamps this thread is laid transversely.

All the so-called interpostal stamps of these two series are printed upon colored paper, of the corresponding color of the adhesives, and contain no threads. This thread is also wanting in all the essays extant. A few proofs have been struck upon porcelain card, and the slight relief which a few bear strongly add to their merit and interest.

WURTEMBERG. — The stamps of the first series (numerals) were printed upon colored paper, differing according to value. The shade of the color, as well as a difference in the letters, seem to distinguish the originals from the reprints.

In the second series (arms) is found the back of the stamps of the first emission a red thread transversely laid. This fact is not noted by M. Rondot (*Magazin Pittoresque*), but it has been by M. Moens. This threaded paper was used from 1857 to 1858, may be until 1859; the cancelling mark proves this. The thread is not found in the unperforated stamps of 1860. It also is missing in the perforated stamps of this series, emitted in 1862, also in the more recent emission issued in conformity to the postal convention above mentioned. The stamps with threads are of a sensibly different shade. The colors are paler, and for some it is easy to follow the degradation of tints. In the 1 kreutzer, for

instance, one can pass from pale, fawn-colored, primitive color, to black-brown, which is the color of the last perforated stamp of this value. Though less sensible, this difference is no less evident for the other values.

During the last few months, posthumous essays have been put into circulation, with threads, of the 1 kreuzer. Two of these differ in color; but the thin one is very like the real stamp, which is, nevertheless, rather of a fawn color than brown. But an other particularity distinguishes them: the essay has on the reverse a vertical blue thread instead of a transverse red thread. It is evident that these stamps were printed lately, and, we have been told, upon Bavarian paper. They are products of the great manufactory of so-called German essays which have lately come to fill the most important collections, essays printed from the original dies, but in a great luxury of colors, and on paper as well as on card-board.

AUSTRIA. — The stamps of this empire and its Italian possessions have always been printed upon a thick paper slightly yellow-tinted. None bear watermarks. The re-impressions are upon white paper.

DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES. — The first series of Moldavia (arms in a circle) were printed upon unwatermarked colored paper. The latter impressions were made upon wove paper. The second series (arms in a rectangle) is printed upon tissue paper, the oldest impressions being, according to Mr. Regnard, upon very slightly-tinted blue paper.

Tissue paper has also been used for the stamps of the two Principalities combined.

(To be continued.)

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

AT A COIN SALE IN NEW YORK ON WEDNESDAY, embracing Mr. McKensie's collection, a silver dollar of 1794 brought \$145; two proof dollars of 1851 and 1852, \$40 each; a dime of 1796, \$20; a dime of 1846, \$14; and

aproof half dime of 1794, \$22.50; a half dime (Martha Washington) 1792, brought \$24; a copper dime of 1792, \$41; a proof dollar, 1836, with the name Gobrecht engraved on it, brought \$90; another proof dollar, 1838, \$45, and a copper three cent piece of 1863, \$18.

GREAT SEAL OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

—This has just been executed in this city [London]. It represents the Queen, seated under a Gothic canopy, and holding the ball and scepter, while the wings of the canopy contain the shields of the provinces—two on either side—hanging on the stem of an oak. These Gothic canopies occupy nearly the whole of the middle space of the seal; the ground between them and the border is covered with a rich diaper, and a shield bearing the royal arms of England fills the space beneath the center canopy. The border of the seal bears the inscription, "Victoria, Dei Gratia, Britannia; Regina, F. D. In Canada Sigillum." The seal is well filled but is not crowded; the ornaments are all very pure in style, and the whole is in the most perfect keeping. The smaller seals for the Provinces are engraved on one general design. The crown surmounts a central shield bearing the royal arms, below which is a smaller shield bearing the arms of the particular Province,—New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec, or Nova Scotia. The royal motto on a flowing riband fills up the space at the sides; a border adapted to the outline of the design runs outside this, and touches the circular border of the seal containing the legend.

A medal has also been struck to commemorate the confederation of the Provinces, in solid gold, and so large and massive that its value in metal alone is £50. On the obverse is a head of the Queen; the reverse bears an allegorical design—Britannia seated and holding the scroll of confederation, with figures representing the four Provinces grouped before her. Ontario holds the sheaf and sickle; Quebec, the paddle; Nova Scotia, the mining-spade; and New Brunswick, the forest-axe. Britannia carries her trident, and the lion crouches by her side. The following inscription runs round a raised border:—"Juventas et Patrius Vigor Canada Instaurata, 1867."

The treatment of the head on the obverse is simple; the hair is hidden by a hood of flow-

ing drapery, confined by a plain coronet; there is a plain pendant in the ear, and a miniature of the Prince Consort is attached to a necklace of very chaste design.—London Correspondence of *Boston Commonwealth*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST:

Dear Sir, While engaged in my favorite amusement of examining coins, the other evening, I thought I would ascertain, if possible, the *best cent*, so far as style and execution are concerned; and after a careful examination of a number of fine specimens, I selected the cent of 1818 as the banner piece of the series from 1793 to 1857 inclusive. I have cents, on either side of that date, equally as fine, *as coins*, but none that are so elaborately and skilfully wrought as the piece I have selected,—The wide-awake eye, the finely-cut nose, the almost speaking mouth and the carefully rounded chin impart a more intelligent look, and give a better portraiture of the human face, than we can find on any other coin in the United States series. The fold of the almost double chin, the "Adam's apple," and the well-defined cords of the neck, tell at once that a master hand made the die that struck that coin. To convince any one of that fact, let him take a coin of 1857,—the last of the copper series,—and compare it with the coin I have spoken of, and he will at once see that our coins are degenerating as surely and more rapidly than did the coins during the transition of the old Greek and Roman empires to the benighted times of the Dark Ages. C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

F. A. G., Danielsonville, wishes to know "what has become of C. A. Lyford and the *New England Journal of Philately*? Both have gone up, have they not?" All assertions to the contrary, we have positive proof that only three numbers of the *Journal* have as yet appeared.

C. VAN R., Holland.—The above is the cause of our not sending you Nos. 4 and 5.

W. B. R., Brooklyn.—1. Your Tuseany 3 lire is a poor imitation; 2. The scarcest of the New Granada stamps are those of 1862. 3. The old Buenos Ayres ship series, and the first issue of British Guiana, are the most valuable stamps known. 5. One of our publishers—Mr. Trifet—has a collection of 3300 stamps, 2800 of which are unused, which he wishes us to state will be shown with pleasure to any of our readers. 5. It is valued at \$1200.

W., Boston, writes:—"I am much pleased to learn that you intend to add a numismatic department to your already valuable magazine, and I will avail myself of the first number to ask for information in relation to a small medal or token, which bears on one side an American eagle holding in its claws an olive branch and spears, and surrounded by a circle of fifteen stars. On the other side is the name 'Perry,' between two wreaths, enclosed in a beaded ring." Your medalet is one of a few that were struck in 1813 to commemorate the victories of Commodore O. H. Perry, on Lake Erie. It is rare and valuable, and consequently eagerly sought by collectors.

TIMBROPHILY IN THE UNITED STATES.

BY AMERICUS.

As an American timbrophilic editor has said, timbrophily has been essentially an English institution, though not originated there, France claiming that honor, but whether rightly or not is questioned. Leaving origin, we find that England has until lately taken the lead in all matters pertaining to the pursuit. She has originated more timbrophilic publications than any other country during each of a number of successive years, and has probably had more dealers and timbrophilic writers until lately. Our own country, the United States, has always stood next in order as being next the most active in the advancement of the pursuit, and now possesses probably the largest number of collectors of any country. For the past year our country has been the most active, as facts and figures will show. Only one new album has been issued in England, while there have been three in this country. England has at present but two stamp magazines: we have three. Not one new, complete price-catalogue has been issued in England during the year, except they were new editions. Two have been issued in the United States. Thus we find that the United States *today* stands ahead of all other countries in point of activity in stamp collecting.

In a former number of the *MERCURY*, I proposed the formation of a "school of timbrophily," that is, a regular system of collecting, and those adopting the system to be known as scholars of this school, after the manner of the schools in Europe. I thought at the time that the pursuit had gained a sufficiently strong foot-hold in this country to warrant such a proceeding, but I found my fellow collectors unwilling to aid in the matter, and, consequently, nothing has been done. The failure of my plan was probably owing to the usual cautiousness of Americans, who are unwilling to undertake such a thing unless

sure of a full measure of success. This time, however, I think it *over* cautiousness on the part of my fellow collectors, and trust they may be of the same opinion after reading the facts and figures in the former part of this article. In reviewing my article containing the proposition, the *S.-C. Magazine* spoke of it as a step in the right direction, and recommended American collectors to act upon my suggestion. I am sorry they have not seen fit to do so; yet, I expect to see the fruition of my plan at no very distant day, and with that accomplished, I can see no other than a bright future for timbrophily in the United States.

HISTORY OF THE ROMAN LETTERS,

ESTABLISHED AND PROVED BY MANY BEAUTIFUL ANTIQUES. PARIS, 1684.

FROM THE JOURNAL DES SÇAVANS, JAN. 31, 1684.

Translated from the French by S. H. C.

The commencement of each Gospel is in great capital letters, which were called *Onciales*, because they were about an ounce, or an inch in height. They are so clear, so well proportioned, and so like the characters of the time of Augustus, and the most beautiful of those of that age, that one is surprised, and one can hardly persuade himself that they are so ancient. The commencement of the Gospel of St. Luke is written in the Ms. in this manner: QUONIAM QUIDEM MULTI CONATI SUNT. There is an other of these Mss. in letters of gold, in the Abbey of St. Medard at Soissons, ornamented with very beautiful miniature pictures, and which is undoubtedly of the time of Louis Le Debonnaire, who presented it to the church.

This renewal of the characters of the golden age of Augustus, in which these beautiful books are written, did not last a great while; for the Norman wars befalling in the ninth and tenth centuries, they saw the old barbarism arise in writing as well as in the other arts. This continued for several centuries

in such a manner that during the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries there were only manuscripts in Gothic characters, very different from the beautiful letters which were in use during the reign of the first emperors, which were the most perfect of any before or since, and the model of all others. It is easy to recognize this great difference in the book 'De Re Diplomatica' of Father Mabillon, which furnishes examples of the letters of all ages.

About the year 1460, Gutenberg invented, or at least brought to Mayence according to the common opinion, the art of printing books with types. He made them similar to the letters which were then in use in this country, which were taken from the Gothic, and imitated so well the Mss. that those who were unacquainted with this new invention were deceived, as they were in France by the Bible which was printed on vellum in Mayence in 1462. Nevertheless, the letters were not so much like the Gothic as they became afterwards, when for printing Latin books they began to use the same characters with which they printed the German books; and as this rare and curious invention came first to France from those quarters, it is not to be wondered at if the most ancient editions of books which are found to have been made in this kingdom are in Gothic letters.

But it was not the same in Italy, for the fine arts, as painting, sculpture, the striking of medals, &c., had, by a singular good fortune, began to be re-established about the year 1430, in the good taste of the ancient polished ages of the Romans. Writing, also, had a share in this advantage, and felt this good fortune. The medal of Alphonso, king of Sicily, made in the year 1440, by a painter called Pisani or Pisanelli, on which we read this inscription in beautiful characters, DIVUS ALPHONSUS REX, is a convincing proof of it.

At the same time, as the renewal of the

fine arts and the establishment of writing, they recommenced the writing of books in round letters, which took nothing from the Gothic. We can see this by a Ms., 'de Civitate Dei,' by St. Augustin, which is in the Library of St. Genevieve, which was written in Italy in the year 1459 for Cardinal Philip de Levi, Archbishop of Arles. As the art of printing had been discovered at Mayence about the year 1460, the associate printers, named Conrad Savenheim and Arnold Pannarts, after having worked there, believed that they could do well at Rome, if they carried there this new discovery.

They went there, and set up a press at the house of Pierie de Maximis, where they dwelt at first. They cast types like the letters of the Mss. which were then in vogue in Italy, such as the one of the 'City of God,' which has already been mentioned as having been written in the year 1459. One of the first books they printed was this same 'City of God,' in 1469, of which there is a specimen in the same Library of St. Genevieve, which has its letters exactly like those in the Ms. We read at the end of the book three lines which preserve the names of these two workmen.

They printed besides in Rome, in the same round characters, the Epistles of St. Jerome, in a great volume, which they dedicated to Pope Paul II. In the Dedicatory Epistle, they congratulate the Pope that in his time the art of printing had been carried from Germany to Rome. "Hoc est quad semper gloriosa illa est coelo digna amsna Nicolai Cusensis Cardinalis peroptabat, ut hoc sancta ars quæ orisi tunc ridebat in Germania, Roman deduceretur." From which we draw two conclusions: 1st, that this art was invented in Germany, and not in Holland; and, 2nd, that it was about the year 1450, for the Cardinal de Cusa who is here mentioned died in 1451.

We can see in the same Library of St.

Genevieve Plutarch's Lives of Illustrious Men in the same round characters, printed at Rome, about the year 1480, by a person named Utdalini le Cog, who has put at the end of the Preface these six lines, making allusion to his name:—

“Anser Tarpei custos Jovis unde quod alis
Constreperes? Gallus decidet; ultor adest.
Udalinus Gallus, ne vnam poscantem in usum,
Edocuit pennis non opus esse tuit.
Imprimit ille die quantum non scribitur anno.
Ingenio haud noceas, omnia vincit honeo.”

Thus was the art of printing established in Italy, and thus was introduced the use of the round characters; and it was from thence that they found their way to France, when they were carried by Jodocus Badius. This illustrious man came from Italy to France about the year 1500, as much to teach Greek at Paris as to establish there a very beautiful style of printing, which he called Proclum ascensianum, in which he gave to the public many good books in these round characters. Before this they had had only Gothic letters.

It is to Father du Moulinet that we owe this little history of the origin, the progress, and re-establishment of the Roman Letters, proved solely, as we see, by the antiquities and Mss. of the Library of St. Genevieve, which he takes care to enrich constantly with these sorts of memorials.*

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

The committee again met on the 29th May, at Great George Street, Westminster, S.W. The President in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. Several gentlemen were elected members, and the meeting adjourned till the 12th of June.

At the first general meeting, which was held on the same day, and at the same place, the President said that the first thing to be

done was to proceed to the election of officers for the ensuing year, ending the first Saturday in May, 1870, the officers now acting having been only elected temporarily, and by themselves, as founders of the Society; and they now place themselves in the hands of the members to be either individually re-elected or superseded, as might be considered most suitable to the interests of the Society; and that, before the members proceed to elect the officers for the year, he would wish to give them some idea of the present position of the Philatelic Society, London. He had hoped to have had the reports ready for this meeting, but was disappointed by the printer.

The number of members admitted to the Society up to this date is 30, exclusive of those elected today; and although the Society had begun in a very small way, yet he hoped that it would have some action on the philatelic knowledge of collectors.

In respect to the cash accounts, there is no report to be made, inasmuch as so little money had been spent that it would be useless to do so.

The President then said that he had to submit the names of the acting officers for re-election, and as it was thought that the Secretary should have some assistance in case of absence or pressure of business, the name of an Assistant Secretary was added to the list.

The following names were then placed before the meeting:—

President.—Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., F. R. G. S.

Vice-President.—Frederick A. Philbrick, Esq.

Treasurer.—P. Furse, Esq.

Secretary.—W. E. Hayns, Esq.

Assistant Secretary.—W. Douglas Hemming, Esq.

Members of Committee.—Charles W. Viner, Esq., A. M., F.R. D.; Edward L. Pemberton, Esq.; Thomas Erskine, Esq.; J. Speranza, Esq., R. M. F. Artillery; W. D. Atlee, Esq.

* In the Journal des Savans there are two plates accompanying this history, giving illustrations of two varieties of the Roman *as*, and the obverses of five ancient Roman medals.

Mr. Hughes Hughes remarked that he thought the members could not do better than appoint the gentlemen who had acted up to the present date, and, therefore, "he had great pleasure in proposing that the old committee should be retained; and that Mr. Hemming should be Assistant Secretary." This proposal was seconded by Mr. Ysasi, and carried unanimously. It was proposed by Mr. Speranza, seconded by Mr. Atlee, and carried *nem. con.*, "That should any vacancy or vacancies occur in the committee, during the year for which it is elected, that such vacancies shall be filled up by members appointed thereto by the committee, to act next succeeding general meeting."

The following papers were then read:—

On the earliest Sydney Stamps, and on proofs of the Sydney Views, by the President.

On a new Russian Local Stamp, by the Secretary. Mr. Pemberton remarked that, in the report of the Select Committee, referred to in the President's paper, he found that the threepenny stamps were named to be green, brown, and pink. After discussing this point, the sense of the meeting was, that the brown variety must be accepted, and that the pink or flesh-colored stamp may possibly have been issued, although no specimen is known.

In addition to the stamps described in the papers read, the following were exhibited:—

The complete set of the new Antioquia, by Mr. Hughes. The adhesive stamp of Knoxville, an Envelope Stamp of Memphis, and many Californian Envelopes, by Mr. Pemberton. Also a variety of the Cashmere circular 1 anna, printed black on laid paper, instead of blue; by Mr. Hayns.

Mr. Pemberton announced that he would read a paper on 'Confederate Locals,' at the next ordinary meeting.

Mr. Hughes proposed, and Dr. Viner seconded, a vote of thanks to the President, which was carried unanimously.

The next ordinary meeting was arranged

to take place on Saturday, June 26th, at three o'clock, p. m.

A meeting of the Committee was held on the 15th ult. After electing new members, some interesting letters were read concerning the nativity of the Dutch Guiana stamp and the labels supposed to be for Paraguay. Mr. Erskine doubted the genuineness of the former, and read the following communication which he had received from a friend lately returned from Java, and who was chaplain to the Consulate there from 1861 until 1866.

"My dear Sir,

When I landed in Java in 1861, there was no stamp for inland or other letters peculiar to the island. After residing there a year or two (I think in 1864), a stamp was issued for island postage *only*, I believe. Postage was uniform all over the island, ten miles or two hundred, and the stamp was not the same as the one you enclose, which I have never seen before.

It was similar to our 'Queen's head,' same color, with head of the King of Holland; value, ten cents. I have some somewhere, but cannot put my hand on them, although I have searched before answering your letter. I shall be writing to Java soon, shall I enclose it, and ask there?

Truly yours,

FRANCIS SMITH.

T. F. Erskine, Esq."

Mr. Erskine has asked the Rev. Dr. Smith to make enquiries, and we trust before long to get further information.

With respect to the authenticity of the Paraguayan stamps, Mr. Hayns read the following memorandum, being an extract from a letter received in 1864 from Mr. G. F. Masterman, in answer to a question as to whether there were stamps in Paraguay:—

"The other day I got hold of the Postmaster-General, and obtained the whole history of the so-called Paraguayan postage stamps. He assures me that they never existed. The fact is, that when the General was in London, or Paris, some enterprising printer called upon him, with the design (which, by-the-bye, is a copy of the impression on the one-real notes), a lion impaled, &c.; and a few were printed in various colors,

as specimens, but they were never issued, and unless the postage system is entirely changed never will be."

The writer being now in England, Mr. Hayns wrote to him for information as to the issue of stamps with ship in oval, and received a reply, as follows:—

"Dear Sir,—In answer to your question, I beg to inform you that stamps are not, and never have been, issued in the Republic of Paraguay. Very faithfully yours,

G. F. MASTERMAN,

Late Ass't Surgeon, Gen. Military Hospital,
Ascuncion del Paraguay.

W. E. Hayns, Esq."

The above fully corroborates the remarks of Mr. Pemberton on these impostures, which have so long retained a hold upon collectors.

The Committee then adjourned until the 26th of June. — *Philatelist*.

LIST OF UNITED STATES ENVELOPES.

(ADDENDA.)

1857.

1 cent (5.4x3.2), blue on cream and brown.

1861.

10 cents (5.4x3.2), green on yellow.

ERRATA.

24th line, 2nd column, 73rd page read, '4 cents,' instead of '5 cents.'

After 6th line, 1st column, 75th page add '1863.'

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

TRINIDAD.—Our first engraving this month



will be of the recently emitted five-shilling stamp. As will be seen, the design is very handsome, being plain; and the color is a rich red brown.

It is printed upon white paper, is watermarked with the CC and crown-mark, and is perforated.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—A few eight-penny stamps, printed in lake, have been discovered.

SPAIN.—The 12 cuartos, 1867, has the words *HABILITADO POR LA NACION* (authorized by the nation) impressed upon them. The 20 cent de esc. has *HABILITADO POR LA JUNTA REVOLUCIONARIA* instead.

SPANISH WEST INDIES.—The 10 and 20 c. also bear the former inscription,

ST. VINCENT.—The shilling stamp has changed its color to a dark muddy blue.

WURTEMBERG.—The 14-kreuzer stamp has appeared, perforated and unperforated!

RUSSIA.—The 5-kopec envelope is to be superseded by one of the annexed design. It is printed in a reddish-violet on the left-hand corner of a small-sized envelope.



NORTH GERMANY.—The 1 and 7 kreuzer are now perforated. The 2 and 18, and the 5 gr., remain 'ruled.'

URUGUAY.—Our New York friend announces a new emission for this country.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—We are informed that a new set is in operation.

DENMARK.—The two skilling is now printed without the S after 2.

SERVIA.—The new stamps are issued.

LA GUAIRA.—The first on our list is a new stamp for this country, and in all probability there is a complete set; but we have been unable to obtain the required information, although we have delayed noticing it since last month.

The design consists of a steamship to left in centre, surmounted by a band inscribed *DOS REALS*. Below are the letters *I. A. I. & Z. CURACAO*. The central device is enclosed in square frame, containing the legend *LA GUAIRA* to left, *Pto. CABELLO* to right, *PAQUETE* above, and *SAN THOMAS* below. The figure 2 occupies circle in each corner. It is printed in red on white paper, and is perforated. The specimen we copy from is so badly canceled that we are not certain we are right in every particular, but hope to give fuller information next month.—*Am. J. Ph.*

THE COMIC SIDE OF NUMISMATOLOGY.

BY NEMO.

Aside from the valuable historical information that may be acquired by the study of numismatology, there is also a vast amount of *fun* to be derived from the same source. It may not be possible for *all* to 'laugh and grow fat' while pursuing this study,—particularly those numismatic tumblebugs that are occasionally found, and who perform the same service in the coin world that our entomological friend does in the physical world. Such fellows grow thin in attending auction sales and buying 'bungtowns' by the lot. But it is the *student* that has his risibilities excited by some of the coins and medals at times presented to his view.

Let us take, for instance, the 'Daniel Morgan' medal, as shown in 'Prime,' plate C. The 'poor Indian,' as here depicted, has the usual number of legs, but they are of different lengths,—probably a benevolent design of mother Nature to enable the owner the better to walk on the steep sides of his 'native hills;' or, as I once saw one of my typographical friends similarly formed, and who had 'wet his matter' too much, walking through Portland street, with the short leg on the curbstone and the long one in the gutter! The Indian's companion, too, must be admired for the graceful posture in which he stands. If the artist intended to represent the man as being 'tight,' and leaning upon his sword for support, he has succeeded most admirably. On the reverse of this remarkable medal the artist shows us a left-handed swordsman with an enemy down, and trying to stab him through the body of a fallen horse, and is himself in danger of being run over by a person on horseback who is pursuing several others, one of whom appears to be mounted on a pig.

But my design is not to criticise the designs of others, but to call attention to the ludicrous

and amusing points of coins and medals; and the next one we come to is the card of John K. Curtis, of New York, the obverse of which plainly shows us 'what we are all coming to,' for on it we behold an old man examining a coin with a magnifying glass, and exclaiming, with mingled joy and sorrow, "A real antique, but, alas! it is indecipherable!" Think of it, my friends, ere it be too late, and procure none but *good* specimens for your cabinets.

Next we have the 'Copperhead' of Mr. Pfaff, who keeps a restaurant, No. sixty-something Broadway, New York, on the obverse of which is a big-bellied fellow in canonicals, who reminds us—

"That a jolly fat friar loved of liquor good store," and who is probably a brother of the man that 'dined at Milliken's,' in Boston, some years ago. If Mr. Pfaff had given us a frier instead of a friar, it would have been a much better sign.

Lastly, we have another 'Copperhead,' issued by our friend Merriam, of Brattle Square. This medal bears a dog's head, with the inscription, 'Good for a scent,' and is the 'head scenter,' both in design and execution, of all the mush-room crop of tokens that sprang up during the latter part of the war, nine-tenths of which are a disgrace to the die-sinking profession, and should be scouted by every coin and medal collector in the land.

REVIEWS OF PUBLICATIONS.

The Continental Philatelic Magazine. Amsterdam. C. Van Rinsum.

Number five of this magazine is before us, and we are happy to say that it is a little better than its predecessors as far as mistakes are concerned, but still it very imperfect.

We first come to a few words of apology by the editor, who, by the way, uses the first person singular in regard to the many mistakes occurring in number four, and promising that the like will not occur again. This

promise he seems to have partially forgotten, as, in the succeeding pages, we find a great many errors which can only be caused by carelessness. Next comes an article in which the editor tries to prove the genuine character of the Wenden stamps. His assertions are based upon a few copies having been seen side by side with some Russian stamps, they being postmarked with a pen stroke.

Now, in order to show how much this proves, we will suppose that we are concoctors of some stamps purporting to be United States locals, and wish to prove them genuine by their being seen on an envelope. We write to some friend, and place on the envelope the customary three-cent stamp, which will pay the postage; alongside we place one of the impositions, and mail the letter. The post-office clerk in defacing the *postage* stamp will half the time touch the *local* with the canceling mark. If he does not do so on the arrival of the letter, our accomplice makes a pen mark on it. We receive back the envelope, and send it to some learned cotemporary who notices the stamp, and establishes its genuine character from the fact that it is side by side with a government stamp on an envelope.

Oh, no, this does not suit *us*. Show us a letter with a Wenden stamp on it, and no other, or any proof of any postage having been paid by the recipient of the letter, and then we will believe in their genuine character.

After this comes an article on the Boston Forgeries, which we could comment on were it not that the subject spoken of is not worth taking notice of. We all know that there is a 13-cent Hawaiian forgery, and all assertions of Mr. Lyford and others to the contrary should be passed in silent contempt.

The concluding article is a list of newly-issued stamps which concludes with a very good joke. The editor states that "by want of room, we must leave some engravings and new stamps to the next number." And following this is one-third of a column left

empty! In the language of the immortal A. Ward, "Why is this thus?" On the whole, this number is greatly improved upon, and we find fewer of those incomprehensible sentences that occur in the former numbers. A little more care on the part of the proof-readers will soon remedy the rest. Success to it.

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

(Continued from page 79.)

The new series, effigy of the prince, is on ordinary paper, unwatermarked. The 2 paras, orange, however, presents a few copies upon lined paper.

The stamps with head of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern (1866) are upon colored paper.

SERVIA. — The stamps of 1 and 2 paras with arms, emitted in 1866 as essays, and the currency of which was of but a short duration, are printed upon white paper, which has previously been colored upon the side, like the early Swiss federal stamps. The stamps with head of Michael Obrenowicht appeared at first upon common paper. The 10, 20, and 40 paras are at present upon tissue paper.

TURKEY. — The stamps and unpaid letter stamps of the first series (1863) were printed upon colored tissue paper. A second emission, in 1864, was made upon thick white paper, colored upon the face, and only used for the stamps of 20 paras and 1 piastre. The stamps of the second series are printed upon white paper, and have no watermarks. The stamps of the local post-office of Constantinople are printed upon colored paper, as well as the unpaid stamps of 10 and 20 paras. The other two are upon white paper.

GREECE. — The Greek stamps have been printed like the French upon paper tinted of the color of the ink. A certain number of them have on the back a numeral of the same color as the stamp, denoting the value. It is common to distinguish two emissions of these stamps, one of Paris, and one of Athens. The stamps of the Paris emissions, both as essays and those actually used, bear no numeral on the back. The 10 lepta is the only value used which had the numeral on the back. Among the stamps of the Athenian emission, the 1 and 2 lepta have no numerals. All the others have the numeral of value printed on the reverse, in a smaller character than that of the 10 lepta printed in Paris. We mention this well-known circumstance to prevent some from mistaking the numerals for watermarks.

IONIAN ISLANDS. — The stamps of the only emission, 1860, are printed upon white paper. The yellow one — value, 1 obolus, or one half-penny — contains no watermark. The blue one — value, 2 obolus, or 1 penny — has a thick figure 2. The red one — value, 4 obolus, or 2 pence — has a thick figure 1. Why this figure instead of a 4, if they count by obolus; or why is the figure 1 not found on the yellow stamp, which is worth 1 obolus? The first conjecture was that it is a mistake made and reproduced by all the catalogues. But on finding the same fact stated by M. Rondot, no doubt can be had on this subject.

We shall here state a few facts that we have from M. Rondot himself in relation to the watermark. The incontestible exactitude of the details noted by this observer has inclined us to reproduce his remarks. According to one version, originally the stamps of the Ionian Islands had the figures 1, 2, and 4 watermarked in the paper which corresponded to the values. The systematic hostility of the Ionians against the protectorate of England having rendered the employment of the stamps with head of the Queen almost void,

less care was taken in the preparation of the stamps, and the watermarked paper was indiscriminately used. According to another version, the stamps were always indiscriminately printed. If either of these opinions were correct in the first case, a complete series of the ancient stamps bearing watermarks corresponding with the values would have been found. In the second case we would find all the values with all the watermarks. Instead of this all our observations have resulted in finding only the following:—

Yellow stamp, 1 obolus, no watermark.

Blue “ 2 “ figure 2.

Red “ 4 “ “ 1.

We will be happy to receive an explanation of this anomaly.

MALTA. — The first emission, in 1861, of the stamp of this Island was printed upon unwatermarked paper. On many of these the paper has retained a bluish tinge similar to the English stamps. The emissions since 1863 are on a paper containing a crown and C C as watermark.



TWO SICILIES. — The Sicilian stamps, with head of King Ferdinand II, contain no watermark. They were printed upon a tinted paper, or this may have been caused by the plates being badly dried. The stamps with the Neapolitan arms emitted in 1858 often show either a *fleurs de lis* or part of one. Many have nothing. On the stamps of the $\frac{1}{2}$ torinese, with cross that we possess, we have found the traces of the watermark, or think we can read the letters RNO under a transversal line. It is no doubt only a fragment of the word *Regno*. The watermark of the Neapolitan stamps, therefore, comes under that class, that one design occupies the whole sheet.



GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTICE OF ALL THE COUNTRIES ISSUING POSTAGE STAMPS.

ANTIGUA.—One of the Leeward Islands, in the W. Indies, belonging to Great Britain; Lat. 17° 8' N.; Lon. 61° 52' W.; 22 miles south of Barbuda, and 50 miles north of Guadaloupe.

Area, 183 sq. m. Its coast aspect is hilly, and much indented by the sea. The surface of the interior has a rich soil, and much diversified scenery.

Climate, dry and hot.

Products.—The principal is that of sugar, of which this island exports large quantities. Its total exports for 1866 amounted to \$1,459,305, and imports to \$1,016,285.

Government.—Its Legislature consists of a Governor, a Council of 12, and an Assembly of 25 members. This island was settled by the English in 1632.

Chief Towns.—St. John's, the capital, Falmouth, and Parham.

Population, 37,125.

ANTIOQUIA, a town of New Granada, S. America. It is the principal town of a district trading in sugar and maize.

Population, 3500.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC, sometimes called Argentine Confederation, and formerly the Confederation of La Plata, in South America; a republic of confederated States comprising all that immense territory, excepting Paraguay and Uruguay, lying between the parallels of 22° and 41° S. Lat. It is bounded on the North by Bolivia, on the East by Paraguay, Uruguay, and the Atlantic, South by Patagonia, and on the West by the Andes of Chili. In length it is 1740 miles, in breadth 1000.

Divisions:—

<i>Provinces.</i>	<i>Est. Pop in 1866.</i>	<i>Area in Eng. s. m.</i>	<i>Capitals.</i>
LITTORAL OR RIVERINE.			
Buenos Ayres - - -	450,000	63,000	Buenos Ayres.
Santa Fe - - - - -	45,000	18,000	Santa Fe.
Entre Rios - - - - -	107,000	45,000	Concepcion.
Corrientes - - - - -	90,000	54,000	Corrientes.

ANDINE.

Rioja - - - - -	40,000	31,500	La Rioja.
Catamarca - - - - -	97,000	31,500	Catamarca.
San Juan - - - - -	70,000	29,700	San Juan.
Mendoza - - - - -	58,008	54,000	Mendoza.

CENTRAL.

Cordova - - - - -	140,000	54,000	Cordova.
San Luis - - - - -	58,000	18,000	San Luis.
Santiago del Estero	90,000	31,500	Santiago.
Tucuman - - - - -	100,000	13,500	Tucuman.

NORTHERN.

Salta - - - - -	80,000	45,000	Salta.
Jujuy - - - - -	40,000	27,000	Jujuy.

Total - - - 1,365,000 515,700

Description.—This country forms almost an oblong quadrilateral, and is, for the greater part, extremely level, more especially so as regards the country to the South and South-East of the Rio de la Plata, which contains the immense grassy plains known as the pampas, q. v. This region, as far as the borders of Patagonia, is a vast savanna, watered by innumerable rivers, some of considerable size. Lakes are equally numerous. In parts, the interior is hilly, and forms various serrias, seldom exceeding an altitude of 500 feet. Then Aidne provinces present a very mountainous surface. The *Gran Chaco*, q. v., in the centre of the continent, is a composite region of grassy prairie, sandy desert, and dense forest.

Rivers.—The great estuary of the Rio de la Plata (or River of the Plate) forms the watershed of a great fluvial system, second only in South America to that of the Amazon. The principal rivers are the upper Parana and its twin, the Paraguay, which, after their confluence at Corrientes, form one noble stream that under the name of Parana, flows down to the Gulf of La Plata. The Parana proper has for its chief tributary the Rio Grande, while the Paraguay receives as affluents the Pilcomayo, the Aragarmina, and the Vermejo. More to the South the Rio Salado flows into the Great river; and still further South an other Salado, after an Easterly course, enters the Atlantic at the mouth of La Plata. The Colorado and the Rio Negro

are streams also embouching into the ocean, the latter forming the boundary of Patagonia. There is also an inland river, the Tucuman, which, after a course of 350 miles South-East across the pampas, loses itself in the salt lakes of Porongos.

Lakes.—Owing to the uniformly even surface of this country, the lakes are in general the mere overflow of the large rivers. Of this description is the celebrated one of Xarayos, on the confines of Bolivia and Brazil, those of Aguascaty and Estero de Nembucu, and, in fact, all the lakes lying to the East of the Paraguay. That of Ybera, lying between the river and the Parana is of great extent. In the south parts of the Republic, a chain of salt lakes reaches from the Andes to the waters of the Plate. One of these, 360 miles South-West of Buenos Ayres, is about 18 miles in circumference, with its bottom so encrusted with hard salt that even iron tools make but little impression upon it.

Mountains.—The North and North-West provinces are generally mountainous, having within their limits some of the loftiest outlying spurs of the Andes, as the Sierra Negros, in the parallel of 24° 40' South, and the Sierra Barbara, extending N.N.E. from the Rio Salado on the South to the Vermejo on the North. On the East, the mountains of Brazil connect with the Andes on the West and North-West by the intermediate range of the Chiquitos. The road from Potosi to Buenos Ayres, 1860 miles, and that from Potosi to Lima, 1402 more, or a total of 3262 miles passes over the highest ridge of the Andes.

Climate.—A country so extensive as the Argentine Republic must necessarily possess a variety of climate. On the icy summits of the Andes an almost intolerable degree of cold prevails in summer, while in the plains the summer heats are absolutely oppressive. At Buenos Ayres, in S. Lat. 34° 36' 28", water freezes slightly at certain times during

winter; but, should this happen frequently, the winter is deemed severe. At the same place, the mean annual temperature is about 64° Fahr.; of summer and winter, the mean is 72° and 52° respectively. Taken altogether, however, the salubrity of this climate is unsurpassed by any other; and even that humidity of atmosphere incidental to the marshy and periodically inundated districts is not prejudicial to the public health generally. From this salubrious feature Buenos Ayres (good airs) derived its name.

Soil and Production.—In the elevated lands near the frontier of Bolivia, agriculture is little practiced. Tucuman, more in the interior, has a rich soil, and warmer temperature, and produces grains and fruits. In Santiago del Estero, indigo was formerly raised in quantities. The cultivation of cotton occurs here and there in the provinces on the Parana, but to no great extent; and it remains to be proved in how far the growth of this important staple will be adapted to the soil generally. Around Buenos Ayres, and in the Platine districts, the soil is fertile and prolific, requiring no manure, and yielding abundant crops of wheat, barley, and maize, besides nearly all the fruits of the temperate zone, and the more tropical varieties of oranges, lemons, and annas. The vine is extensively cultivated, and furnishes the export of excellent wine and brandy. The soil of Argentine is, on the whole, admirably suited to the production of cereals; but this husbandry, owing to Spanish supineness, and the Indian aversion to labor, remained comparatively undeveloped until the European emigration of late years, which has opened the resources of the land, and promises for it a prosperous future.

Botany.—As examples of the flora of A. may be mentioned, cinchona, or quinine, sarsaparilla, jalap, and other medicinal plants, as the sassafras, maguey, guayacan,

zuma, coa, &c. Vanilla and cacao, of but indifferent quality are also indigenous. In the forests grow cedars of a class well adapted for shipbuilding, the American pine, or *cury*, and the algaroba or carob-tree, whose fruit affords not only food, but a pleasant drink called *lagaa*. Among the native fruits are the *jujud*, *quabyra*, *guimbi* (exuding a perfumed wax of which candles are made), the *tatay*, *turumay* (resembling an olive), and the *mani* (producing an oil superior to that of the olive).

Zoology.—The zoology of the A. much resembles that of Peru and Chili. The tapir is the principal graminivorous animal; and the hippopotami, the armadillo, guanaco, vicuna, and llama are also indigenous. Elks and deer are numerous. The zorrina, resembling a small rabbit, emits a fetid odor like that of the North American skunk, and is avoided by all living creatures, animal as well as human. Of birds, the *nandu*, or ostrich, and the condor, tenant this country; serpents of large size, and locusts, abound. The numbers of horned cattle in a wild state on the great plains have been estimated at 12,000,000, and the horses at 3,000,000, besides vast numbers of sheep.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANY.

ANCIENT COINS EXHUMED.—On Monday, while workmen were engaged in digging a drain on Pleasant Street, between Warren and Main Streets, Charlestown, they found, five feet below the surface, and lying close together, two antique copper coins, which had probably lain buried for many years. One of the pieces was an English penny dated 1738, and made in the reign of George II. The other was a Massachusetts penny of 1787. Both are in an excellent state of preservation, and of value to numismatic collections. Mr. Benjamin L. Cobb is the fortunate owner of these interesting relics.—*Boston Herald*.

Very valuable, certainly. Any coin dealer would furnish similar coins for about fifty or

seventy-five cents. We congratulate Mr. Cobb on his good luck, however, and hope he will use his 'pennies' to start a numismatic collection.

BILL OF EXCHANGE STAMPS.—Among stamp (though not postage-stamp) curiosities, the lately-issued provisional bill-stamps for Mauritius are well worthy of note. Three of these stamps in a row are united by an external frame of a single line. Each of the three is exactly alike the others in point of design, which is of the simplest: in the centre, on a square disk of color, are the words, ONE PENNY, MAURITIUS; the marginal inscriptions at top and bottom, read together, are respectively: FIRST OF EXCHANGE, SECOND OF EXCHANGE, and THIRD OF EXCHANGE—the word "exchange" occupies the lower, and the other two words the upper margin. These three stamps when required for use have only to be separated from each other, and placed each one on the bill of exchange to which it refers. The system is simple and sensible, and likely to be more widely adopted.

Our Mauritius correspondent, who sends us specimens of the above described stamps, says that a new series has been ordered in England, the design of which is to include a representation of the Peterbotte mountain, and of the extinct dodo.—*S.-C. Magazine*.

A NOVICE in coin collecting, recently telling a friend of the extent of his colonial department, said that he had "one New Jersey, one Massachusetts, and both kinds of Connecticut cents."

A STORY IS TOLD of a California woman who was shown a twenty-five cent note of our postal currency, specimens of which are rare in that hard money region. She turned it over and over with keen curiosity. "It seems very strange to me that this should be money," she said, "It don't look like money." "What does it look like?" "Well," (hesitatingly, and with the utmost sincerity) "it—looks—like—a label for an oyster can!"

'SCENTS.'—"Have you got any scents here?" enquired a country damsel of Mr. Cook, the other day. "Oh, yes," replied the affable dealer in old coins, and he forthwith produced a tray of fine specimens of copper cents. "O, I don't mean them old bung-towns," said the lady, "the scents you smell of."

CORRESPONDENCE.

WEST POINT MEDALS.

To the Editors of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST.

In the Boston Evening Transcript of June 16, 1868, appears the following paragraph. "The silver medals for West Point were this year made by a Cincinnati house which got the preference over the great New York silver ware establishments."

I have made some inquiry in regard to the medals referred to in the above notice, but can find no satisfactory information regarding them, nor can I learn, by inquiry among the cadets that any medals were struck for West Point during that year.

If any of your readers can throw any light upon this subject, they, by doing so, will greatly oblige,

Yours, X. B.

IMPRESSIONS WANTED.

To the Editors of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST.

Being engaged in studying, for the purpose of publication, the varieties of the Colonial coinage, I wish to ask, through the medium of your magazine, that collectors of coins, or others having specimens of such coinage in silver or copper, will send to me impressions in copper or tin-foil of any fine or rare specimens.

Especially am I desirous, at once, to obtain accurate descriptions or impressions of the N. E. and Pine Tree money, and the Higley and Granby coppers.

If any of your readers have American coins of rare varieties, I should be very glad to receive information regarding them, or if they wish to dispose of them, am ready to purchase.

S. S. CROSBY,

Chairman Com. Pub. N. E. N. & A. Soc.

Address, P. O. box 1353.

To obtain the impressions required above, procure a piece of soft broadcloth, about the size of one's hand, on which lay a piece of foil of suitable size, and on the foil place the coin to be copied; then fold the foil so as to cover the upper side of the coin, and on the foil place the other end of the cloth. Next, put a piece of soft wood on the top of the pile, and strike it a gentle blow, and an impression of the entire coin will be complete. — [Ed.]

THE MACKENSIE SALE.

To the Editors of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST.

Mr. Editor: The article in the last number of your journal, in relation to the Mackensie sale, is apt to mislead young collectors about the value of coins. The prices quoted were actually obtained; but were obtained more from the *prestige* of the owner, — who is celebrated as a collector of none but *good* coins, — than from any superior value of the coins themselves. Undoubtedly they were all very fine, but not enough better than others in private collections to warrant the fabulous prices paid for them. An eminent collector of Boston has a '93 cent, for which he paid the modest sum of fifteen dollars, that he says he would not exchange for the cent of the same date in the Mackenzie sale that brought \$145.00. And the owner of the first-mentioned coin is in every way a competent judge of such matters.

Please publish these lines, and let our young men

know that they can obtain good coins at fair prices; and that they must not be deterred from adding to their collections by such fruitful prices. C.

CANADA ENVELOPES ON BUFF PAPER.

To the Editors of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST.

Sirs: In your article on the "Dealers of Boston" in the June number of your paper, in vindication of yourself, you make some insinuating allusions concerning me and my connection with the Canada envelopes on buff paper. I feel it my duty to defend myself from any accusations of attempting fraud in offering them to any collectors for sale or exchange. I bought 100 sets from Mr. Benjamin Haines of this city, for which I paid him \$25.00 cash; and I did receive an offer from Young & Stockall of England, in a letter, dated April 24th, 1868, for 50 sets at 1s. per set; and I did offer Mr. Trifet any amount of sets at the same price, for Mr. Haynes told me that he could let me have an other 100 sets if I wanted them. Mr. Trifet did send me a letter making me an offer for a number of sets, but I declined as the price offered was too small. This letter, I remember, but am sorry to say I can not now produce it, for I, some time since, destroyed all my files of old letters, it included. I can, however, produce the very next one after the offer, and my declining to send them, in which he asks me to send him 3 sets at my lowest price. If these stamps are forgeries, I am not guilty of selling them knowingly, for Mr. Haines (who is still living, and a letter directed to him here will be sure to reach him) told me that Mr. Nesbitt was an intimate and particular friend of his, and that he struck him off several hundred sets. I knew Mr. Haines, and believed him, and, as before stated, bought 100 sets from him. If counterfeits, he must know where they came from. Any other questions concerning these stamps I am ready to answer so far as is in my power. I am, Sir, yours truly, J. A. PETRIE.

Elizabeth, N. J., July 22d, 1869.

[We would state to our readers that Mr. Trifet says that he never made any offer for the imposition. Strange that that letter should be lost. — Ed.]

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. H., Omaha. — Best way to remove a stamp from your album is to take a piece of blotting paper about half an inch larger than the stamp to be removed. Having wet it, lay it on the back of the page against the stamp. After remaining there two or three minutes, you can pull the stamp off, without fear of tearing either it or the book.

VICTIM. — If you do not wish to be imposed upon, never buy stamps of dealers who do not warrant their stamps to be genuine, by advertising them as such. Some dealers say "all stamps warranted genuine, or money refunded;" this notice will hold to a certain extent. If you buy a stamp of these parties, which, nine cases in ten will be a counterfeit, they will swear it is genuine, and if you can get your money back, you must be smarter than the average of mankind.

F. W. F., Detroit. — The first timbrophilic magazine published was the *Stamp-Collectors' Review*. The first number was published on December 15th, 1862, by Edward Moore & Co. at Liverpool, England. Nineteen numbers were issued.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL
NOTICE OF ALL THE COUNTRIES
ISSUING POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued from page 91.)

Mineralogy.—The auriferous wealth of the mountains of South Bolivia is said to be illimitable, and no doubt gave rise to the appellation of River of Silver (Rio de la Plata) to that great stream whose head-waters are found in its region. The Argentine Republic has not as yet shown much sign of mineral activity, but there can be no doubt that gold as well as silver exists in the Andine provinces. Silver mines are being worked at San Juan, and mining is every year growing into importance in the districts of San Luis, Cordova, and Catamarca. Iron is found in Santiago del Estero.

Inhabitants.—The aboriginal race of Indians comprises today the various tribes of the Chiquitos, Guaranis, Puelches, Mojos, Manos, Huilliches, and many other. Of their numbers nothing authentic is known; but, on approximation, they may be estimated at from 1,000,000 to 1,200,000. The principal class of the inhabitants of the Argentine Republic are the creole descendants of the Spanish settlers, who, in mind, morals, and physique differ little or nothing from the other Hispano-Americans. Though vicious and indolent, they possess good natural abilities, and occasionally exhibit a sort of spasmodic energy. The meaner degree of whites are divided into the two classes of agriculturalists and herdsmen, in which latter capacity they are most numerous, but so deteriorated as to be hardly above par with the savages. They are famous horsemen, and perfect masters of the lasso. Mestizos, Mulattoes, and Negroes form the third grade of society.

Religion.—The Catholic is the established religion, but others are tolerated. The ecclesiastical power in the Argentine Republic vies in splendor with that of the church in Europe.

Large cathedrals and monasteries are found all over the country. Education, however, is but little advanced.

Government.—The executive power centers in a president, elected for six years by representatives of all the provinces. The legislative assembly is composed of a senate and house of deputies, the former comprising twenty-eight members, two from each province, and the latter fifty-five. The president is commander-in-chief, and appoints to all civil, military, and judicial offices, but is responsible for the acts of his nominees, and liable to impeachment. The governors of provinces possess extensive powers, and are, to a certain degree, independent of the central executive. These are elected by the people for a term of three years. The army of the Argentine Republic consists of about 10,700 men, exclusive of the militia and the national guard of Buenos Ayres, numbering 19,867. The naval strength of the republic consists of a fleet of steamers and ten sailing vessels.

Finance.—The revenue estimates for 1868 amounted to \$13,236,000, the expenditure to \$7,908,245. The total public debt was, in the same year, \$34,011,485.

Commerce.—The staple productions of the Argentine provinces are those belonging to its vast pastoral economy, as hides, skins, wool, tallow, and jerked beef or 'charqui.' Of these articles immense quantities are exported to Europe and the United States. Their total value in 1867 was \$23,029,710, of which the United States received to the value of \$5,842,811. The imports embrace almost all kinds of dry goods and manufactures, and are principally obtained from Great Britain. In 1867 the imports from the United States to the Argentine Republic amounted to \$2,340,589. For Argentine ports, thirteen vessels cleared from the United States, forming an aggregate tonnage of 5,554. The navigation of the Parana has much developed during the last few years, a regular system

of steam communication being carried on between Buenos Ayres and the interior.

Railroads.—About 700 miles of railroad, divided into seven different lines, and chiefly constructed at the expense of the State, are opened or projected. The longest line is that from Rosario to Cordova, 547 miles.

History.—In 1516 the estuary of La Plata was discovered by Juan Diaz de Solis, who, with his companions, were killed and devoured by the natives. In 1525 Sebastian Cabot visited the Plate, and one of his captains, ascending the Parana, built a fort at the mouth of the Carcarana. The Emperor Charles V. subsequently sent out an expedition under the command of Mendoza, who founded the city of Buenos Ayres in 1535. The Spaniards, after the lapse of half a century, succeeded in establishing their power over the entire country, built cities, and founded Jesuit Missions. In 1726 the Portuguese, jealous of the ascendancy of Spain, founded the city of Monte Video in the Banda Oriental. In 1776 the Plate provinces were separated from the government of Lima, and formed into the viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres. In 1806 a British expedition was dispatched to the Rio de la Plata, and captured Buenos Ayres, which was ultimately retaken by the Spaniards. A second attack met with no better result. In 1808 the Spaniards revolted, deposed the viceroy, and declared a provisional government. After a protracted struggle with the mother country, they accomplished their independence. Between 1810 and 1835, the Argentine provinces had no fewer than thirty-six changes of government. In the last-named year Gen. Rosas was elected president with dictatorial powers. He ruled the country with an iron tyranny for twenty-five years, sought to bring the Banda Oriental, or Uruguay (as it is now termed), under his control, and also to exclude foreign commerce from the river Plata. Upon this, France and England blockaded Buenos Ayres, occupied Monte Video, and captured

the Argentine fleet. In 1849 a peace was concluded. In 1851 Brazil and Paraguay, objecting to the control of Rosas over the navigation of the Parana, declared war against the Argentine Republic. Their confederate forces, amounting to 18,000 men, utterly defeated Rosas in the battle of Caceres or Pacheco, in February, 1852, and obliged him to seek refuge in England. The navigation of the Parana was then declared open to the world; and in 1853 the present constitution was established. After the fall of Rosas, the government was successively assumed by Gen. Urquiza and others, and in 1860 by Gen. Mitre. In 1862 Buenos Ayres was declared the capital of the Argentine Republic, which it continued to be until 1863, when Rosario was made the seat of the federal government. When the ambitious designs of Lopez, the dictator of Paraguay, led to a war with Brazil, the Argentine Republic took a neutral attitude, but upon the refusal of Mitre to allow the Paraguayan troops passage through his territory, Lopez crossed the Parana, and invaded Corrientes, seizing two Argentine vessels, as well as the persons of Argentine subjects, upon whom he levied black-mail. These outrages obliged the Argentine Republic to ally itself with Brazil and Uruguay against the common enemy. A long and sanguinary war followed with varying success, until the fall of Angostura, the last stronghold of Lopez, which was taken by the allies on the 22nd Dec., 1868, after a desperate resistance. The results of this great victory will be found under the head of Paraguay. After a wise and popular rule, Gen. Mitre was succeeded as president 12th June, 1868, by Señor Domingo Sarmiento.

Population.—About one-third of the population, as above given, is of European or North American origin. The average increase of population by immigration is about 11,000 per annum, rather more than one-half of the immigrants being Italians, next to whom natives

of France and Spain are the most numerous.

AUSTRIA.

One of the largest, most populous, and important of the States of Europe, situated in the central and southern portions of that continent, and forming, with the exception of a narrow strip of territory along the east coast of the Adriatic, a solid and compact mass. It extends from about 42° to 51° north latitude, and from 8° 30' to 26° 30' east longitude; is bounded on the north by Prussia and Russian Poland; on the east by Russia and Moldavia; on the south by Turkey, the Adriatic Sea, and the Kingdom of Italy; and on the west by Switzerland and Bavaria. Its length from Lake Constance to the east frontier of Transylvania is about 850 miles, and its breadth (exclusive of Dalmatia) from the south border of Croatia to the most northern point of Bohemia about 492 miles.

Area.—227,234 square miles.

Divisions.—This empire is divided into 19 provinces, the area of which and total population, according to the latest sources of information, is shown in the following table. Deducted from the statement are the Lombardo-Venetian provinces ceded to Italy in 1859 and 1866.

<i>Provinces.</i>	<i>Area in Eng. s. m.</i>	<i>Pop. in 1868.</i>	<i>Capitals.</i>
GERMAN MONARCHY. (<i>Cis-leithan Countries.</i>)			
Austria (Lower) . .	7,234	1,945,800	Vienna.
Austria (Upper) . .	4,378	716,072	Lintz.
Salzburg	2,615	146,930	Salzburg.
Styria	8,194	1,280,196	Gratz.
Carinthia	3,785	340,202	Klagenfurt.
Carniola	3,645	468,918	Laybach.
Littorale, or Coast- land (Görz, Gra- disca, Istria, and Trieste)	2,916	557,366	Trieste.
Tyrol & Vorarlberg	10,689	873,316	Innsbruck.
Bohemia	18,944	5,059,125	Prague.
Moravia	8,112	1,983,324	} Brunn.
Silesia	1,879	683,408	
Galicia	28,546	5,004,568	Lemberg.
Bukowina	3,815	501,038	Czernowitz.
Dalmatia	4,668	437,788	Zara.

KINGDOM OF HUNGARY. (*Trans-leithan Countries.*)

Hungary	78,285	10,567,590	Pesth.
Croatia & Slavonia	7,035	941,630	Agram.
Transylvania . . .	20,041	2,052,292	Klausenburg.
Border States, or			
Military frontier . .	12,453	1,111,014	Temesvar.

Total 227,234 84,670,577

General Description.—The empire of Austria exhibits every variety of surface; and the geographical features and physical characteristics of the many countries comprised within its limits are so various and individually peculiar that we shall here but group together the more salient features of their natural appearance as a whole.

Mountains.—The principal mountain systems are: 1. The Hercyno-Carpathian chain, which divides the regions of the German Ocean and Baltic Sea from those of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Rising in Switzerland, this range traverses the Vorarlberg and Bavaria to the north-east frontier of Bohemia, where it throws out an offshoot called the Erzgebirge, stretching into the latter country, and into Saxony. Proceeding south-west, this chain runs, under the name of the Bohemian Forest, nearly to the Danube, where, dividing Moravia from Bohemia, it sends out a branch into Silesia called the Riesengebirge. The central Carpathians extend through Hungary as far as the sources of the Save and Dniester, and their eastern link covers north-east Hungary, the Bukovina, and Transylvania. 2. The second mountain range, covering a larger tract of country, and possessing more elevated summits than the Carpathian range, divides the region of the Mediterranean from that of the Black Sea. It stretches in three chains from the frontiers of Switzerland and Italy, which, through the Tyrol, run nearly parallel to each other. Its summits, above the line of 8,000 feet, are covered with eternal snow.

(*To be continued.*)

A RARE MEDAL.

Translation from *Le Journal de Savans*, tome 2. Amsterdam: Du Lundy: 28 Aoust, 1657.

Octavii Falconerii de dummi Agamensi. Deucalionis Diluvii Typum Exhibente Dissertatio. In. 8. Rome.

The medal which is mentioned in this dissertation is worthy of consideration by its rarity, but still more so by the things which it represents, the exposition of which has exercised for a long time the wits of all antiquarians.

M. Falconieri, who has a perfect knowledge of antiquity, proposes in this dissertation his conjecture on this celebrated medal. It is certain that the bust which is seen on the obverse is that of the Emperor Philip, as the inscription shows: *ΑΥΤ. Κ. ΙΟΥΛ. ΦΙΛΙΠΠΟΣ. ΑΥΤ.*,—"The Emperor Cesar Julius Augustus."

The reverse, as the author believes, represents the deluge of Deucalion. For it seems that the vessel which floats on the water may be the ark in which are Deucalion and his wife Pyrrha; that the two birds may be meant to represent the dove sent out twice from the ark, and returning the second time with the branch of a tree; and that the man and woman who are out of the ark represent Deucalion and Pyrrha, who are pictured with raised arms, because the poets feigned that after the human race had been destroyed by the deluge Deucalion and Pyrrha restored it by throwing stones behind them, which were instantly changed into men. For the inscription, he says that it ought to read thus: *ΕΠ. Μ. ΑΥΡ. ΑΑΕΞΑΝΑΡΟΥ. Β. ΑΡΧΙ. ΑΙΛΑΜΕΩΝ.* [translation: Epidamus. Manus. Aurelius. Alexander. High-Priest. Apamea.] and that this signifies that the medal was struck at Apamea, under the second pontificate of Marcus Aurelius Alexander; and as there are seven or eight cities which bear the name of Apamea, it shows that it is in the Syrian city of that name that this medal was struck.

But what makes the principal difficulty is

the name of Noah, which is written upon the ark. For if it is the history of Deucalion which the medal represents, why has the name of Noah been put upon it? and how can it be that in a heathen city as Apamea was the memory of Noah was so celebrated that his name was graven upon medals?

Some, who have believed this to be impossible, have imagined that the word intended to be placed upon the ark was *ΑΙΛΑΜΕΩΝ*, but that the word had been reversed by a misfortune common to engravers, and changed into that of *ΝΩΕΜΑΙΑ*, of which the four last letters having been effaced, there remain only the first three *ΝΩΕ*. But this conjecture is more ingenious than true; for, as the author of this dissertation remarks, if the three letters, *ΝΩΕ*, were the end of the word *ΑΙΛΑΜΕΩΝ* reversed, the letters would be also reversed in this manner *ΝΩΕ*, which is not true; besides there are no traces of letters after the word *ΝΩΕ*; and there is not even sufficient room for the four letters *ΜΑΙΑ*, which they pretend have been effaced.

This author concludes then that it is really the name of the patriarch Noah which is written on this medal, and he examines why it is written there. We know that the heathens have had knowledge of the sacred Scriptures, and that their fables are only verifications of sacred history disguised, which the author proves by the testimony of the ancients, and by many beautiful examples. But he says that there is a special reason why the name of Noah was particularly known in Syria: it is that this province having been formerly subjugated by David, the people learned many things from the Scriptures by the communication which they had with the Jews. Besides, the name of Deucalion was in great veneration throughout the country on account of a famous temple of which it was pretended he was the founder, and where was held every year a solemn feast in memory of the deluge. So that, as the inhabitants of Apamea knew

that the Deucalion of the Greeks was the Noah of the Hebrews, it is not so astonishing if, in engraving on their medals the figure of Deucalion, they have put on them the figure of Noah to render the history of the deluge more authentic, and to show that the God whom they adored was as well known to the Jews as to the Greeks.

THE STAMP DEALERS OF BOSTON.

In the *Stamp-Collectors' Magazine* for August appears a long article under this heading, in which Mr. Trifet's letter in the June number is reprinted and commented upon. By this we see that its editor is willing to do justice to whom it is due, and as we believe the day is not far distant when it will feel itself obliged by a sense of honor to retract all it has said to our publisher's detriment, we feel under the obligation of thanking it for what it has already done, viz., republishing our publisher's defense.

A few things in that have not been clearly understood by the editors of the *Magazine*, and these we propose to correct. In the first place, though Mr. Trifet alone should be assailed in the future, the firm must be defended, as it might lead to wrong misunderstanding that one partner is honest and the other not.

Next, he (Mr. Trifet) was induced to buy the South American stamps from Mr. Taylor from their being offered at such a low price as to make it safe to buy them if they were three-fourths bogus. The few frauds found in them were sold with a perfect understanding from both parties, buyer and seller, that the possibility, in fact probability, was that they were impositions; therefore, Mr. Trifet was not guilty of "culpable want of caution." Next, when he stated that the *Magazine* should "not always consider a man by the company he keeps," this did not imply that he was not guilty because he kept Mr. Taylor's com-

pany, but because he happened to be in the same city as that person, and did not wish to be considered as a swindler on that account, as the remark in the May number of the *Magazine* spoke of Boston dealers in general.

Next, it says "If he continues to associate himself with persons of their character, it will be idle for him to declare himself their dupe." To this we would reply, and wish it distinctly understood, that if we or our publishers are are not to be accused of defrauding collectors or dealers until they associate with Messrs. Taylor, Lyford, & Co., that time will never come, as it is not their intention to associate with them in future any more than they have lately.

In conclusion we would thank our English contemporary for his efforts to stop this nefarious business of fictitious stamps, and assure him that in future he will find no truer upholder in his work than the editor and publishers of the *MERCURY*. This will no doubt bring us enmity from various sources; therefore, as we wish to have in our power something to prove what assertion we make, we desire any of our readers who may have had dealings with any stamp dealer or firm in America, and who have been swindled in any manner, either by the buying of forged or fictitious stamps for genuine, sending money and receiving no reply, &c., to send us all the particulars, *in writing*, enclosing what proofs they may possess of what they assert, the whole duly signed and sworn to before a magistrate. We will not only use such information as a retaliation against parties who may attack us, but by it warn other persons from dealing with the parties named. We desire all readers of this to give us their assistance, and help us to show collectors abroad that some dealers now, and, may we not hope, all dealers in America before long, will be, if our efforts be of any use, trustworthy and reliable.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

LA GUAIRA. — The annexed cut represents the stamp spoken of in our last number. The color varies from light and dark pink to yellowish red.



NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION. — All but the 2 k., 18 kr., $\frac{1}{4}$ groschen, and 5 gr. are now perforated.

TURKEY. — A set of labels have been issued by the Constantinople and Danube line of steamers. They are circular in shape, and, besides the wave of the line, have the inscription T. B. MORTON & CO.; LETTER POST, with FRANCE in large letters between.

20 paras, blue or red on blue, green, or red on yellow.

1 piastre, blue or red on pink.

RUSSIA. — Three city stamps have been discovered, of which we give illustrations. The first is printed in black on unwatermarked dark-green paper, and unperforated, and is for the town of Schunelburg.



The next is printed in blue on white unwatermarked paper, and perforated. It is issued "for one of the circuits of the county or government of Moscow."



The third and last is printed in black on white unwatermarked paper, is unperforated, and issued for the town of Borowitch.



HELIGOLAND. — The $\frac{1}{2}$ shilling is now perforated instead of rouletted.

BAVARIA. — The 1 kr., green, 6 kr., brown, exist with solid backgrounds.

SERVIA. — We have seen one value of the new stamps for this country, which does not do much honor to the designer, whoever he may be. The stamp is rectangular; in a circle is a head, no doubt that of the successor of Prince Michael the Third, to the left; in the four corners the numeral 1, ИОУТА above; NAPA below: on unwatermarked white paper, perforated. Color, yellow.

TIMBROGRAPHY.

Various names have from time to time been given to the science of stamp collecting, the most widely-used terms being Timbrophily and Philately. The first of these we find is from the French word of *timbre*, a stamp, and the Greek *phileo*, to love, being 'to love stamps.' This word might do, but as in coining a word we must always make it as full of sense as possible, we will endeavor to point to our readers a few definitions which, from their derivation, we think are the most appropriate for naming and using in timbrographic researches. First we come to the root or commencement, being

TIMBROGRAPHY, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *grapho*, to write, to describe.] This term we propose to use in any descriptive account or history of stamps; also to be used as the term applied to stamp-collecting and dealing in general. Example: the MERCURY is a magazine devoted to Timbrography. Timbrography is becoming more and more popular.

Next we will take the alphabetical order, and proceed.

TIMBROGRAPHER, noun. [See Timbrography.] One versed in Timbrography. This word shall be used to denote a person or persons having a knowledge of Timbrography.

Example: Mr. Pemberton is one of the best Timbrographers in the world.

TIMBROGRAPHIC, adjective, pertaining to the history of stamps. To be used in speaking of any work, etc., giving a history or other information about stamps. Example: Levrault's Catalogue is a Timbrographic work.

TIMBROGRAPHICAL, adjective. The same as Timbrographic.

TIMBROGRAPHICALLY, adverb. In a Timbrographical manner. To be used when speaking in a Timbrographical manner. Example: Timbrographically, it is a good collection.

TIMBROLATRY, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *latreia*, worship.] Worship of a stamp. To be used in speaking of a person who has a passion or love for stamps. Example: that person is given to Timbrolatry.

TIMBROLOGICAL, adjective. Pertaining to Timbrology. To be used in speaking of Timbrographic articles, etc. Example: the article by Dr. Magnus in this magazine is a Timbrological one.

TIMBROLOGY, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *logos*, a discourse, treatise.] A treatise on stamps: Timbrography. To be used about the same as Timbrography.

TIMBROMANIA, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *mania*, madness.] Stamp-madness; a rage for possessing stamps. To be used in speaking of stamp collecting when carried to excess. Example: Timbromania is raging in that college.

TIMBROMANY, noun. The same as Timbromania.

TIMBROMANIAC, noun. One who has a rage for stamps. To be used in speaking of a person who practices Timbromania. Example: that boy is a regular Timbromaniac.

TIMBROMANIACAL, adjective. Relating to Timbromania. To be used to denote anything that originates in Timbromania. Example: this is a Timbromaniacal collection.

TIMBROMANIANISM, noun. The same as Timbromania.

TIMBROMANIST, noun. The same as Timbromaniac.

TIMBROPHILE, noun. A lover of stamps. To be used as the name of stamp collectors. Example: Mr. Trifet is a Timbrophile (or Timbrophilist) as well as a Timbropole (or Timbropolist).

TIMBROPHILIST, noun. The same as Timbrophile.

TIMBROPHILISM, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *phileo*, to love.] Love of stamps or Timbrography. To be used in the same sense that Timbrophily is used at present. Example: Timbrophilism is an amusing and instructive pastime.

TIMBROPHOBIA, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *phobeo*, to fear.] A dread or fear of stamps. This word might be used to describe the feelings of a collector when he finds out that the majority of his stamps are counterfeits.

TIMBROPOLE, noun. [French, *timbre*, a stamp, and Greek, *poleo*, to sell.] A stamp dealer. Example: F. Trifet & Co. are Timbropoles.

TIMBROPOLIST, noun. The same as Timbropole.

TIMBROPOLE,
TIMBROPOLICAL,
TIMBROPOLISTIC, } adjectives relating to stamp sellers or stamp selling.

Example: the Timbrological trade is increasing in the United States.

TIMBROPOLISM, noun. The business of selling stamps. May be used in speaking of a person dealing in stamps. Example: the business of Messrs. F. Trifet & Co. is Timbropolism.

The above are the principal words that might be used, and we will give the example by commencing ourselves. If other publications, and, may we hope, the *L. P. S.*, take a hand in the matter, we will soon be on a

level with book and coin collectors, who have a large space in most all dictionaries apportioned to words used by them.

SHELL-MONEY.

BY R. E. C. STEARNS, IN AMERICAN NATURALIST.

To the numismatist the love of money is not fraught with evil; his love is not the worship of Mammon or the miser's greed, but rather the ardor of the philosopher or the enthusiasm of the naturalist; he glorifies his coins, not for their commercial value, but for their antiquity or historical associations. As he ponders over his collection, a panorama of past centuries unrolls before him; he sees a long procession of great events, the rise and fall of nations and of men whose emblems and effigies, embossed upon their money, have outlived the national life. More eloquent than written history are these speechless coins. Though silent, they tell of epochs in the lives of the nations they represent, and of eras in the history of the human race.

Notwithstanding the importance of money from an historical point of view, it is not probable that its invention was due to any other cause than commercial necessity; although coins for money are the offspring of civilization, yet the convenience of some medium, less bulky and more durable than ordinary merchandise, by which the differences occurring in transactions of trade or barter may be adjusted, has been recognized by barbarous tribes as well as by civilized people.

The knowledge and use of peculiar narcotics and alcoholic beverages by portions of the human race, both civilized and barbarous, unacquainted with and widely separated from each other is a well-known fact. Analogous to this is the use of some form of money or a medium in trade by isolated and remote tribes.

The earlier coins of ancient Rome appear rude and grotesque when placed side by side with the exquisitely-wrought coins and medals of Napoleon the First. But what a degree of

civilization and knowledge of the arts do they proclaim when compared with the barbarism of those wild tribes of Africa and America, whose utter ignorance of the arts has led them to use as a substitute for metallic money the shells of the ocean!

Mr. J. K. Lord, naturalist to the British North American Boundary Commission, during the years 1858-'62, mentions the use of shells as money by the natives of the North-West coast of America, as follows:—

"It is somewhat curious that these shells (*Dentalia*) should have been employed as money by the Indians of North-Western America; that is, by the natives inhabiting Vancouver's Island, Queen Charlotte's Island, and the main-land coast from the Straits of Fuca to Sitka. Since the introduction of blankets by the Hudson Bay Company, the use of these shells, as a medium of purchase, has to a great extent died out, the blankets having become the money, as it were, or the means by which everything is now reckoned and paid for by the savage. A slave, a canoe, or a squaw is worth in these days so many blankets; but it used to be so many strings of *Dentalia*."

Mr. W. H. Dall, who has recently returned from Alaska, and whose opportunities for observation have been ample, informs me that the *Dentalia* are used by the native Alaskans, and that the furs purchased of the Indians by the fur companies, or their agents and traders, are still, at least in part paid for with these shells. This is still further confirmed by the facts that the larger European species of *Dentalia* are imported especially for this trade, and I have myself seen in the fancy-goods stores in San Francisco strings of these shells displayed for sale with beads and other Indian goods.

It is undoubtedly true, as stated by Mr. Lord, that the use of shell-money has in a great measure ceased at the points he mentions, as the increased number of white trad-

ers and visitors at the principal towns on the coast, as far north as Sitka, has somewhat familiarized the natives with the manners and customs of civilized people, which their natural shrewdness would lead them to adopt so far as it might be to their advantage.

As proof of the 'cuteness' of the 'untutored savage' in this latter respect, it may be interesting to state that at or about the time of the purchase by and transfer to the United States of the territory of Russian America, attended as it was by the visit of a considerable number of adventurers and others at Sitka, the prices of venison and other game was, in the language of traffic, so far 'marked up' that gold or its equivalent, to the amount of one dollar a piece, was charged for salmon, a most exorbitant price, not justified by any greatly increased demand, or by any unusual scarcity of this wonderfully abundant fish in that country.

In the year 1861, during a visit of a month's duration upon the coast of California, at Crescent City, in Del Norte County, I found that in barter among themselves, the Indians used for money the shells of *Dentalium pretiosum* Sowerby, a species that is found all along the North-West coast of America, and which, either the shells or the shell-money, is called by the Indians, if I remember correctly, *Alli-ko-cheek* (orthography not warranted correct), and the longer the shells the greater the value, which was reckoned by measuring the shells by the finger joints. I am quite sure that the same species were used by the Indians who live in the Klamath River country in the next county to the south, and who get their name from the river, being known as the Klamath Indians.

Aside from the use of *Dentalium pretiosum* as money, I saw at Crescent City a medicine man belonging to some of the tribes of the neighborhood, who had perforated the grizzly partition which had separated the nostrils, and having thrust into the hole thus made two of

these shells, point to point, one from each side, for half the length of the shells, perfected this nasal ornamentation by thrusting the feathers of some wild fowl into each of the hollow shells, producing an effect somewhat resembling a moustache.

At Bodega, much farther to the south on the coast of California, and near the old Russian settlement in Sonoma county, a place visited by me in the month of June, 1867, I was informed by some of the residents that the Indians of the neighborhood, living, however, somewhat back from the coast, used pieces of the bivalve shell known as *Saxidomus gracilis** for money, but why they should use this shell instead of the lustrous and pearly *Haliotis rufescens*, which is fully as abundant, it is impossible to discover.

The use of shells or pieces of shell by the aboriginies of North America was well known and recorded years ago. By reference to the Massachusetts Historical Collections, it will be seen that the early settlers of New England found that shells, or strings of shells, were used by the Indians, both for money and ornament, and were called by them *Wompompeage* or *Wampum*.

The natives of some of the islands of the Indo-Pacific region use the shells of *Litorina obesa*, and they also make very pretty work by evenly fastening these shells to pieces of bark, which, when made, they use for personal ornament. In other of the islands, I have been informed that the banded variety of *Nerita polita* is used for the same purposes.

Cypræa annulus is used by the Asiatic islanders to adorn their dress, to weight their fishing nets, and for barter. Specimens of it were found by Dr. Layard in the ruins of Nimroud.†

The money cowry, *Cypræa moneta*, a native of the Pacific and Eastern seas, is used as money in Hindostan and many parts of Africa. They are chiefly brought from the Maldives,

**Tapes gracilis* Gould. †Woodward's Manual, 2d ed. p. 233.

and are an article of trade at Bombay. Many tons weight are annually imported to this country (Great Britain), and again exported for barter with the native tribes of Western Africa. In the year 1848 sixty tons were imported into Liverpool, and in 1849 nearly three hundred tons were brought to the same port.*

Reeve mentions in the second volume of the *Conchologia Systematica* that "a gentleman residing some time since at Cuttack is said to have paid for the erection of his bungalow entirely in these cowries (*C. moneta*). The building cost him about 4000 *rupees sicca* (£400 sterling), and as sixty-four of these shells are equivalent in value to one 'pice,' and sixty-four 'pice' to a *rupee sicca*, he paid for it with above sixteen millions of these shells."

It will be seen, therefore, that shells have been and are still used as money by a considerable portion of the human race, and it would be quite difficult to point out any other natural production that would be more appropriate or convenient when size, shape, and substance are considered.

The money of the wild tribes of America, Africa, and Asia one may look for in vain in the drawers of the coin collector. It must be sought for in the museums of natural history, or the cabinets of the conchologist.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

The Committee met on Saturday, June 26, at Great George Street, Westminster. After electing new members, and discussing various matters relating to the Society, they adjourned until October the 2nd, "unless summoned by the Secretary to elect members, or to execute some necessary business."

The first ordinary meeting of the Society was afterwards held at the same address, the President in the chair. There was a very fair attendance of members, who listened with

much attention to a paper from Mr. Pemberton on the California locals, the interest of which was materially enhanced by a copious collection of specimens, some dozens of which had never been previously described, kindly forwarded by way of illustration by the talented writer.

Dr. Viner's proposition that a vote of thanks be given to Mr. Pemberton for his paper was carried unanimously, as was also a vote of thanks to the same gentleman, conjointly with Mr. Thomas Erskine, for their monograph, 'A Reference List of the Stamps of New Zealand.'

Dr. Viner proposed, and Mr. Wilson seconded, that the next ordinary meeting of the Society be held on Saturday, the 2nd of Oct. Carried *nem. con.*

THE MASSACHUSETTS COINAGE.

BY H. E. W.

To the old Bay State belongs the honor of issuing the first money coined in America. Prior to 1652, with the exception of the wampum, made by the Indians, the only thing the colonists were possessed of partaking of the nature of money was the scanty supply of small change which found its way to the New World from Europe, mainly from Spain. This was usually very badly clipped, and therefore with no fixed value. While the Colony was in its teens, as most business transactions were in the way of barter, the people were not fully aware of the many disadvantages and inconveniences attending the use of such a currency, but as the population increased, trade gradually became more general, and at length the want of a circulating medium of a standard value began to be felt by all. Accordingly, in 1652, it was decided by an act of the legislature that the colonists should have a metallic currency of their own.

A mint was erected on Boston Neck, upon land owned by John Hull, who was appointed mint master.

*Baird's Dictionary of Natural History, p. 193.

The coinage was commenced the same year. The earliest coins struck were those now known to numismatists as the 'New England Money.' They were of three denominations, twelve pence, six pence, and three pence, and were struck upon rude silver planchets, on each side of which, near the edge, was a small rectangle, containing upon the obverse the letters 'N. E.' and on the reverse the Roman numerals, signifying their respective values.

This design left so large a portion of the coin unprotected by lettering of any kind that an excellent opportunity for clipping was offered to those who were not inclined to be honest. Even among the staid old Puritans there were some whose supply of virtue did not equal their stock of the 'root of all evil.' To these the inducements to be dishonest were too strong to be passed by unheeded, and the practice soon became so general that, in order to guard against it, the design was in less than a year changed.

The new coins were of the same denominations as the N. E. Money. On the obverse of each one was a representation of a tree, around which, enclosed in a double ring, was inscribed, both upon the shilling and the six-pence, 'MASATHUSETS IN.' That portion of the legend on the reverse was 'NEW ENGLAND. AN. DOM.' The centre was occupied by the date and the value, expressed in Roman numerals. The legend on the three-pence was shortened upon the obverse to 'MASACHUSETS,' and on the reverse to 'NEW ENGLAND.'

Although these pieces continued to be struck for upwards of thirty years, the date always remained the same, as did also that of the two-pence and three-pence, which, as their dates indicate, first appeared ten years later. The legend upon the two-pence was the same as that of the three-pence. That of the penny was still further abbreviated.

There is a vast variety of trees in the forests of the Hungarian Valley, many kinds in

other parts of the globe, but, among them all, I am confident that nothing can be found like the nondescript trees upon these coins. Some imaginative persons, not knowing why they should be anything else, fancy some of them look like pines. Hence the name Pine-Tree Money, by which the series as a whole is generally called. No one can be rash enough to assert that others bear the slightest resemblance to pines, and so they are known as Oaks. One has been likened to a palmetto, and an other, for want of a better cognomen, is called a willow.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANY.

A MAIL DELIVERY.—A young lady writing from Ramsgate says:—

"In the morning, my dear, we have a delivery of letters by the post. In the afternoon we have an other delivery,—the delivery of husbands, brothers, cousins, or beloved acquaintances, as the case may be, by the steam packet. In this manner, darling, we have a mail delivery twice a day. It would ill become me to say which one I like best."

AN IRISHMAN dropped a letter into the post-office the other day with the following memorandum on the corner, for the benefit of all indolent postmasters into whose hands it might fall: "Please hasten the delay of this letter."

TREASURE TROVE.—In the early part of August last, as Mr. Vann, of the Cherokee Nation, was plowing in the field at Webster Falls, his plow struck something, stopping his mule. Supposing it to be a root, he struck the mule with his lash, and it gave a sudden pull, when up came five old Spanish dollars. Mr. Van went to the spot where the coin appeared, and on examination found a keg full of the coin. The staves of the keg were rotten, but the dollars were as sound as when coined at the old Spanish mint. On digging up the keg he found it contained \$5000, all in old Spanish dollars of the date of about 1806, and American half dollars of old date. The keg must have been buried twenty or thirty years ago. Since the finding of this money, the whole field has been dug up in search of treasure.

THE OLD COIN.

A massy lump of brass and bronze,
Moulded, by ponderous blow on blow,
For Nero or Vespasian's son,
In ages dim and long ago.

A cruel mouth, a swinish chin,
A wolfish eye, almost erased;
But half a date—a victory—
Two words, and those almost effaced.

Where is the golden palace now
That on the Palatine arose?
Where are the statue-guarded doors?
Where are the temple porticoes?

For discs of metal shaped like this
Swords have been drawn and Lethe crossed,
For this, in greedy hope, men's souls
Have been by passions tempest-tossed.

This is Ambition's high reward;
This is a buried Cæsar's fame:
Upon a lump of rusty bronze
The two-thirds of a doubtful name.

THE 'BUNG TOWN.'

BY NEMO.

A worthless lump of tarnished brass,
Defaced by many a thump and blow,
And made from hand to hand to pass,
Like doughnuts at a cattle show.

A sheepish eye, a battered chin,
A nose the outline none can trace;—
The hat, if any, broken in,—
Faint semblance of the human face.

Where is the seedy loafer now
That loved the music of its clink?
Where is the 'open bar' o'er which
It often has been passed for drink?

For, lumps of metal shaped like this
Have in the air ofttimes been tossed,
When for the 'drinks' the game was played
Where heads have won and tails have lost.

"This is Ambition's high reward;"
This is the new collector's aim,—
That with a score of coins like this
He can a 'fine collection' claim.

NEW POSTAL FACILITIES IN AUSTRIA.—

The Austrian Post-Office Department has adopted a new arrangement which promises to be of great service, especially to business men. It is described as follows by a correspondent of the N. Y. Evening Post:—

'Post cards,' as they are called, have just been issued, which can be sent to any part of the Austrian monarchy for the exceedingly low price of two Austrian kreutzers (equal to one cent). These post cards are about twice the size of ordinary visiting cards, are made of stiff paper, folded in the middle, and one of the outer sides is prepared for the address. The inside of the card is devoted to the reception of the letter, and also contains on the top printed directions for use. The cards may neither be sealed nor placed in envelopes, but just doubled up, addressed, and then thrown into the receiving boxes. Of course, these will not be used for private communications, such as require secrecy, but are very well adapted for business purposes, the transmission of orders, notice of the arrival or shipping of goods, and such like. The government retains the privilege of destroying all such of these cards as may contain matter of an insulting or indecent character. The advantages of these post cards in a commercial country can hardly be estimated. Their adoption in America, we think, would be hailed with joy by business men. It would be simply the extension of the privileges enjoyed by newspapers to general correspondence. Might not the United States postal authorities just think over this excellent Austrian arrangement a little?

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. C. Y., New York.—Subscriptions to the *MERCURY* should be for at least one year, commencing with any number.

CHICAGO.—1. The latest timbrological work published by our publisher is their Catalogue and Price-List. 2. The scarcest stamps known are the first British Guianas, the Tuscany 3 lire, Naples $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, arms, and some of the Luzon and Buenos Ayres.

E. H., Milwaukee.—Mr. Brown states that your letter of the 17th June was answered on June 23rd. We can not accuse dealers of frauds unless you furnish better proof than you have in this case.

W. E. J., Boston.—1. The Bremen stamp given away with the July number was issued in 1860. 2. Your French coin is one issued under the reign of Louis XIV in 1657: its value is 1 liard, equal to \$.0025.

W. R. B., Montreal.—Yes, you, or any of our readers, may cut out and send us any scraps from newspapers relating to coins or stamps. In doing so, always send the name of the publication cut from.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL NOTICE OF ALL THE COUNTRIES ISSUING POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Continued from page 95.)

The central chain takes a north-east direction through Styria into Hungary; the northern covers Northern Tyrol and the greater portion of Austria proper; the southern strikes out from the South Tyrol into Italy, and, passing through Illyria and Croatia, joins the Balkin in Bosnia. Three important branches spring from the latter chain, one of which, called the Bokony Forest, penetrates Hungary; a second divides the region of the Drave from the valley of the Save; and the third, stretching along the Adriatic through Dalmatia, forms the range called Montenegro, from its black color.

Valleys and Plains.—The chief valleys are situated in the southern provinces, principally in Tyrol, Salzburg, Styria, and Illyria. Large plains are also found forming the basins of the principal rivers, as those of Vienna, the two great plains of Hungary, and the plain of the Vistula in Galicia.

Rivers and Lakes.—The more noticeable rivers are those of the Danube with its numerous affluents, the Oder, Vistula, Dniester, and Adige. The Rhine bounds the extreme west frontier of the empire for a small portion of its course. The principal lakes are those of Atter-Gmunden or Traun, Hallstadt, and Augsee, Monelsee, and the Neusiedler and Balaton lakes in upper Hungary.

Climate.—Four distinct climates are found within the limits of this empire. The air is for the most part clear and salubrious, but the heats of summer and the colds of winter are both in extremes. Heavy rains occur in Tyrol and Vorarlberg, while, on the other hand, Hungary and Dalmatia often suffer from excessive drought.

Natural Products and Mineralogy.—Gold and silver, iron, coal, salt, titan, tellurium,

precious stones, about one hundred kinds of marble, quartz, and porcelain clays. Austria possesses many famous mineral springs, as those of Carisbad, Toplitz, Marienbad, &c.

Zoology.—All the common domestic animals are indigenous. The brown bear roams in the Alps and the Carpathians, along with the wolf and the lynx. The chamois, red and fallow deer, wild boars, and many varieties of feathered game are objects of the chase. Herds of small wild horses formerly ranged in Hungary. The golden eagle inhabits Slavonia; and other large species are found in the Rhaetian and Noric Alps.

Botany and Vegetable Products.—All kinds of cereal and cultivated grasses, vines, flax, hemp, tobacco, hops, saffron, galls, and an immense variety of fruits, &c. The forests are of vast extent and great value. Beech, pine, larch, alder, and oaks of gigantic size abound.

Inhabitants.—The Austrian empire naturally comprises a greater variety of races, religions, and languages than perhaps any other of the great divisions of Europe. Of the first, we may mention Germans, Bohemians, Moravians, Slavacks, Magyars, Poles, Russians, Slavonians, Croats, Servians, Bulgarians, Italians, inclusive of Latins and Hiauls, Eastern-Romans, Jews, and Gypsies. The state religion is the Roman Catholic, but there are besides vast numbers who profess the doctrines of the Greek and United Greek churches, Lutheranism, Calvinism, Unitarianism, Judaism, &c. The German, Slavonic, Hungarian (or Magyar), are the ruling languages, each with its distinct sub-languages or dialects. The most advanced of the populations are those of the German provinces, while the Dalmatians stand on the lowest footing of civilization in Europe.

Government.—The form of government is that of a constitutional monarchy, the basis of which are: 1. The Pragmatic Sanction of Charles VI. (1734). 2. The Pragmatic Sanc-

tion of Francis 1. (1804). 3. The diploma October 20, 1860, by virtue of which the Emperor (or *Kaiser*) admits to participation in power the Provincial Estates and the Council of the Empire. The succession is regulated by primogeniture, with preference of males to females. The coronation of the Emperor is prescribed by the Pragmatic Sanction of 1804. The Council of the Empire (*Reichsrath*) is composed of two legislative chambers: 1. The Lords, consisting of the imperial princes, 62 hereditary nobles, the archbishops and prince bishops, and lords nominated for life by the Emperor, to the number of 47; and, 2. The Chamber of Representatives, chosen by the Provincial Diets, which are annual assemblies elected by those who pay a certain amount of direct taxes. The coronation of the Emperor of Austria as King of Hungary is prescribed by the decision of the Diet of 1791. The Diet is divided into two chambers—that of the magnates (princes bishops, and barons of the realm), and that of the Representatives (delegates from the towns and rural districts). Electors must possess a revenue of 105 florins, or be in possession of certain privileges. Following the events of 1866, a new convention was made with Hungary on the following basis: The two halves of the empire separated by the river Leitha to have only in common their foreign affairs, army, and a portion of their financial arrangements. Each to have its responsible ministry for its own affairs. The common interests of the empire are considered by delegations, composed of 60 representatives of the Hungarian Diet, and 60 of the Austrian Reichsrath. The law of December 21, 1867, has modified the law of February 26, 1861, relative to the composition of the Reichsrath. The Chamber of Representatives is now composed of 206 members, viz.: Bohemia 54, Dalmatia 8, Galicia and Cracovia 38, Lower Austria 18, Upper Austria 10, Salzburg 2, Styria 13, Carinthia 5, Carniola 6, Bukowina 5, Moravia 22,

Silesia 6, Tyrol 10, Vorarlberg 2, Istria 2, Gœrtz and Gradisca 2, Trieste 2. The responsibility of ministers for acts committed in the discharge of their official functions was established for the first time by a bill which passed the Reichsrath in July, 1867, and received the sanction of the Emperor.

(To be continued.)

RARE MEDALS.

Translation from *Le Journal des Savans* for the year 1665. *Selecta Numismata Antiqua, ex museo Petri Seguinii. Paris: in 4to.*

There ought to be much notice taken of this book, because it contains many rare and beautiful medals; but it is still more to be esteemed, because, for the most part, those which are formed in it have been, until the present time, unknown, and are only to be found in the cabinet of M. Seguin, which is one of the most beautiful in Europe.

Savans have placed particular value upon a medal of the city of Patras which bears upon one side the bust of a female, with this inscription, "Indulgentiæ Aug. Moneta Impetrata," and on the reverse, the figure of Augustus sitting in a triumphal chariot, and holding a sceptre, upon which is an eagle with these letters: "Cæsari Aug. Col. A. A. P.," that is, as M. Seguin translates, "Cæsari Augusto Colonia Augusta Aroë Patrensis." For Pausanias informs us that the city of Patras was also called Aroë.

Many collectors have supposed that, in the time of the first Emperors, it was only the Senate who gave liberty to strike money. Nevertheless, we see, by the inscription on this medal, that the Emperor Augustus had accorded this privilege to the city of Patras.

The medal of Britannicus is no less curious. As this young prince only lived a short time, antiquarians find almost nothing concerning him, and M. Tristan, who has such a perfect knowledge of antiquity, acknowledges that the only type of this medal which he has seen is the one which he has described in his *Histor-*

ical Commentaries. But this type is a little different from the medal which is in the cabinet of M. Seguin, of which this is a correct copy.

There are, besides, in this book, many other medals which are no less rare; for instance, one of the son of Mark Antony and Fulvia, whom Plutarch calls Antillus; one of Marinus who was elected emperor by the legions of Mesia, after the death of Gordius III. of whom historians say very little; one of Sebastian, who, with his brother Jovinus, usurped the empire of the Gauls, and of whom we scarcely know the name; one of the heroine Julia Procla of Mitylene, who is only known by this medal; and many others; which show that medals can thus make additions to our histories which would be often imperfect, if we could not by them supply facts otherwise unknown.

All these medals, and many others of which we cannot speak here, are explained in this book with so much erudition that, beautiful and rare as they are, the commentary is often worth more than the medals themselves.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.

SERVIA.—In addition to the 1 para stamp described in our last, we have to add seven more which we believe is all of the series. They are as follows:—



- 10 paras, brown.
- 15 " orange.
- 20 " blue.
- 25 " carmine.
- 35 " green.
- 40 " mauve.
- 50 " dark-green.

They are all on white paper, and variously perforated, the number of dents on the sides

varying from 11 to 15, and on the bottom from 9 to 12.

FRANCE.—*Le Timbrophile* has received copies of the 1 centime laureated-head series, and announces that the 5-franc stamp 'is now' (July 30th) being printed at the mint.

MEXICO. Guadalajara.—An other variety to the already long list of these ugly stamps has been found.

1 real (1857) on plain water-green paper.

AZORES.—There exists specimens of the 10-reis stamps unperforated.

LA GUAYRA.—Of the type illustrated in our last number, there exists a half real, dark-yellow-green, perforated.

VICTORIA. — The 3 pence, violet, with figures at sides is now printed in orange.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 10-pence stamp is watermarked with crown and S.A.

LIBERIA.—The third emission, like the first, are now printed without the additional line around the stamp. Besides the shade of the colors is much paler.

ANGOLA.—A set of stamps has been issued which is thus mentioned by the *S.-C. Magazine*. "The design consists of a crown on a ground of waved lines in a rectangle, having, at each side, a Grecian ornament; that at each angle is the figure of value; and, finally, that the name of the colony is inscribed in the upper margin, and the value in full in the lower. These stamps are not perforated."

BADEN.—The 6-kr. envelope is obsolete, and a new series is in contemplation, whether of the same design is not known.

TURKEY.—The local stamps described in

our last, and illustrated in this, have been superseded by an other series, having a steamer in the space above the word FRANCO.



NICARAGUA.—We received, just too late for insertion in last month's number a pair of stamps for this country. They are similar to the already-existing two and five-cent stamps, with the exception of the corners, which vary a little in each value.

The values are

10 centavos, vermilion,

25 “ green,

printed on white unwatermarked paper. They are manufactured by the American Bank Note Co., New York.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—The remaining two values of the groschen series, $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5, are now perforated.

PORTUGAL.—The perforated set is also complete.

RUSSIA.—‘The cry is still they come.’ The last local found (?) is lozenge-shaped, value 2 kopecks, printed black on plain white paper. *Rural Post of Riasanski* in the frame, and *village postage stamp* and the value in the centre.

DENMARK.—We are informed by our Correspondent in Copenhagen that a stamp, value 48 schiling, is in preparation. Particulars not given.

SARAWAK.—The little remaining doubt as to the genuineness of the stamp issued for this country is made away with by an article in the *Philatelist*, which gives the ‘Government notification’ of its issue.

HAYTI.— $\frac{1}{2}$ real on deep pink, and 1 real on dark-blue paper of usual thickness.—*Philatelist*.

ECUADOR.—The 1 real is now printed of a bright gold-yellow.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.—A new two-cent stamp, with the border of the present 2, and the head of the 5, is in preparation.

UNITED STATES.—The new issue has not been withdrawn from service either in New York or anywhere else. This we have from headquarters. The designs for the new issue are in preparation, and will be described in our columns at an early date.

THE MASSACHUSETTS COINAGE.

BY H. E. W.

(Continued from page 103.)

The differences which distinguish the coins, one from an other, are not confined to the trees. The dies varied much in size. The lettering upon some was quite fantastical, while upon others the letters were well-shaped, and would have put to shame many die-sinkers of the present day who style themselves ‘artists.’ Each person employed upon the dies seems to have had at least one mode of spelling of his own, if not more. What has finally settled down into Massachusetts was spelled in various ways, among which may be mentioned the following: Massatusets, Masatusets, Masathusets, Masathucts, Maseasthusets, Maasathusets, Maathusets, Masaatusets.

There is a shilling having, for an obverse, a group representing the Bible story of the Good Samaritan. The piece is probably a fabrication.

There are several types of the shilling dated 1650, and in regard to which there are many conjectures. Some persons suppose them to be trial or pattern pieces, struck before the coinage had been authorized; while others, taking into consideration the number of mistakes made in the orthography, think that this variation in the date had the same origin. But the most generally received opinion is that they have been made within the past twenty years or so, for the express purpose of deceiving those collectors who are able and willing to pay an exorbitant price for any fine and rare coin which they may not possess. The truth of the last remark is rendered probable by the fact of there being a number of *known counterfeits* which the steady demand for this money has, from time to time, induced different persons to put into the market.

For most of these ‘rare productions,’ we are

indebted to our friends across the water, though there was, not many years since, quite an extensive swindle in this line carried on in the United States. An individual residing in New York City, having counterfeited the entire series, including the N. E. and Pine Tree types, and the Good Samaritan shilling, together with the one penny piece, caused to be published, in several newspapers of the time (1857), an account of a pretended treasure trove at Chelsea, Massachusetts. Having thus prepared the way, nothing was now left for him to do but dispose of his fabrications as best he could to the unsuspecting public, which he accordingly did. After the fraud was exposed, sets of this 'issue' were struck in copper, and a Good Samaritan shilling is extant in gold. These counterfeits are, at the present time, full as rare as the originals.

Speaking of treasure trove reminds me of the lot of Pine and Oak Tree money found a few years since in what was then Roxbury, Massachusetts, and the following account of which I take from the catalogue of the collection of John F. McCoy. "Some time during the summer of 1863, a little boy, son of George P. Reed, Esq., in clambering up a bank in the vicinity of Mary's Woods, dislodged from a crevice, by the side of a rock, a mass of gravel, and thereby brought to view a quantity of Pine Tree money, twenty-eight pieces in number. This was the largest amount of this coinage that has ever been found buried, with the exception of the Castine deposit. The collection comprised six Pine Tree shillings, all very fine, and one of them a remarkably good specimen of the Massachusetts type; one Oak Tree shilling; two Pine Tree sixpences; seven Oak Tree sixpences, one of which, bent as a Witch token, bore, as plainly as though indented today, the imprint of the teeth of some old Puritan; four Pine Tree threepences; two Oak Tree threepences; and six Oak Tree twopences. All

these pieces were fine; and, with very few exceptions, they were remarkably fine."

(To be continued.)

REVIEW OF PUBLICATIONS.

The Timbrophilist, Boston; C. A. Lyford.

An eight-page paper bearing the above title, but evidently, from the style of the writing, edited by a certain dealer in forged and fictitious stamps, doing business in Boston, is before us.

The personal attacks upon all persons concerned in stopping that person in his swindling propensities seem to be the only object of its publication, and, as we consider ourselves and magazine as far above entering into a controversy with persons of such character, as its publisher and editor is known to be, we will merely answer his charges against us in each and every case as false, and but the last chances of a rogue, when caught, to shift his crime upon an other person.

NEW ENGLAND NUMISMATIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The first meeting of this society, after the summer vacation, was held at its room on Thursday evening, September 16th. Vice-President Crosby occupied the chair.

After the meeting was opened, and the regular business attended to, the Secretary read a letter from Alfred Sandham, Esq., of Montreal, accompanying the donation of a rare book entitled 'The Constitution of the Sixteen States which compose the Confederate Republic of America' etc., published in Boston, in 1797.

An other letter was also read from Surgeon J. F. Pratt, M.D., of New Sharon, Me., presenting a medal struck on a piece of copper, taken from the rebel ram Merrimac. This medal, aside from its value as a donation to the society, possesses a valuable historical worth in bearing on the obverse an excellent likeness of President Lincoln, by Bolen, and also from the fact of its being taken from one

of the most formidable war vessels, after her humiliating capture by a 'Yankee cheese-box.' The obverse bears the inscription, "A piece of copper taken from the rebel ram Merimac, in 1862, by J. F. Pratt, A. A. Surgeon U.S.A." Only ten struck.

The Librarian reported donations of an elaborate little work entitled 'Varieties of the 1794 Cent,' from the author, Dr. Maris of Philadelphia, and of catalogues of recent coin sales from Edward Cogan, Esq., of New York, and Mason & Co., of Philadelphia.

A vote was passed thanking the donors for their respective donations.

Mr. Crosby exhibited eight sizes of silver and three sizes of gold 'bullet' money of Siam. He also presented, for inspection, three kinds of Tycee silver money, and various Chinese silver coins, among the latter of which were specimens of the coins paid to hangmen and soldiers for their particular duties, and which are available only to them on presentation to the governor for redemption.

After the transaction of other business, and the discussion of a private matter, the meeting adjourned, the members congratulating each other on the return of the season for their social gatherings.

DUDLEY R. CHILD, *Cor. Sec.*

ESSAY ON THE WATERMARKS AND PAPERS

EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF POST-AGE STAMPS.

BY DR. MAGNUS.

2ND EDITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH BY F. TRIFET.

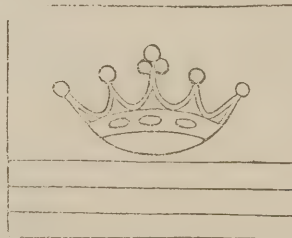
(Continued from page 88.)

STATES OF THE CHURCH.—The Roman stamps are printed upon colored paper, with the exception of the 8 and 50 baj, and 1 scudo, which are upon white. It is therefore the shading of the paper which varies in the

emissions. There are several varieties of the stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$, 2, 4, and 6 baj.

ROMAGNA.—The provisional stamps of the Romagna and their essays are printed upon colored paper. As in the preceding stamps, there are no watermarks.

TUSCANY.—The first emission, in 1852, of Tuscany stamps (lion) were upon bluish paper, with a watermark, consisting of large-sized ducal crowns, occupying the space of several stamps, reproduced several times, and divided from each other by three parallel lines. Therefore, one finds on this stamp either straight or curved lines, or circles, the last two figures representing the bands and pearls of the crown.



We have found this same watermark, but upon white paper, in stamps of 2 and 6 crazie, blue, and 4 crazie, green. We don't believe these three stamps had been altered. An other 2-crazie stamp, we have seen, is upon tissue paper, the watermark being very hard to see, but which we take to be a ducal crown.

The second emission in 1856 is upon white, the watermark being different. It is formed of undulated vertical lines crossing each other at about every three centimetres, and, therefore, making ovals, or pointed links. On this watermarked ground, some letters, or fragments of same, belonging to some inscription are seen.

The letters which we have been able to make out on the stamps at our disposition are F, A, C, O, L, S, E, and the fragments are like the one we reproduce as specimen, and



which no doubt belongs to such letters as PO, or TO.

As for the inscription, we judge from the letters it is the same as is to be found in the frame of the stamps, *Franco bollo postale toscano*. The difficulty of finding an entire sheet, or of composing one with the stamps, will explain the doubt with which we give this opinion. Whichever it is, the presence of these lines is the sign of the white paper emission of the Toscan stamps. It is on this same watermarked paper that the provisional governments stamps, with Savoy cross, were issued in 1859. A few essays have been issued upon unwatermarked white paper, and on colored paper, in the latter case, the impressions being in black.

There exists a circular stamp, printed in black upon white tissue paper, which, when once gummed, looks a great deal like the vegetable paper. It is the BOLLO STRAORDINARIO PER LE POSTE, 2 SOLDI. This stamp, like the Tassa gazette of Modena, was a kind of duty, charged upon the newspapers coming from Austria, created in 1854.

PARMA.—No watermark. Impressions of the stamps are on white or colored paper, according to the series.

MODENA.—Only one stamp, the 1 lira, of



this duchy bears a watermark.

It is a capital A which is found at the back of each stamp. Ver-

tical and horizontal lines divide the stamps. We have been unable to find out the reason of adopting this watermark.

SARDINIA AND ITALY.—The Sardinian stamps of the first three series have no watermark. Those of the second are embossed upon colored paper. The stamps of the fourth series (embossed portrait, colored frame, white inscription), emitted for Piedmont, and afterwards for all the northern provinces of the kingdom of Italy, and those of the same period of the Neapolitan provinces have no

watermarks either. They are printed upon white paper.

Those of the 1863 series (portrait or figure



printed in color) are upon white glazed paper, and are all watermarked, with a large crown, including the stamps of 2 and 20 centenimi emitted last. The essays in colors

of this series, at least those of the 5 centimini and 2 lire which we have seen, were also on this watermarked paper.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANY.

The Rev. Mr. Struthers, of Prestonpans, was recently fortunate in bringing to light a large and valuable assortment of old Scottish coins that had been buried beneath the earth for the last three centuries. It seems that a few fisher girls, while passing along the highway a little to the east of Banktown House (Colonel Gardiner's old mansion), picked up from the margin of an unenclosed field a number of what they thought pieces of brass or iron, which, however, on inspection, turned out to be old coins of the Stuarts,—among others, a gold noble of the reign of the unfortunate Mary. Mr. Struthers was not long in learning the fact, and, going to the place where the coin had been found, made a careful examination of the ground. The field had been ploughed deeper than usual this year, and he was not long in discovering a large number of coins that appeared to have been deposited for safety. They were all in a heap, as if they had been originally contained in a bag, which, of course, had mouldered away in lapse of years. There were 114 coins altogether, extending from the reign of James III. to that of Mary, one of the latter, a silver piece, which bore the date of 1558, being in beautiful preservation and as perfect in its stamping as the day it came out of the Scotch Mint. The gold noble referred to above was the only one of that kind, all the others being silver,—in some cases greatly alloyed. One of the most interesting coins of the series is a silver piece of Mary's reign, struck in commemoration of her marriage with the Dauphin of France. It bears the date 1558, and in

addition to the monogram F. M. with the heraldic emblems of France and Scotland, contains the following Latin legend on the reverse:—*'Jam non sunt duo sect una caro'*—'They are no longer twain, but one flesh.' There can be but little doubt that the deposit was made in the reign of Mary; and as her surrender to the Confederate Lords at Carberry Hill took place in the immediate neighborhood, it is no stretch of imagination, but a very feasible conjecture, to connect the two things together, and to believe that one or the other of the faint-hearted adherents of the queen, seeing that the cause was going down, had concealed the treasure under ground, till better times should come.—*Exchange.*

COINS.—A correspondent of the *B. Herald*, under date of August 6, says that on searching the premises of a counterfeiter who was recently arrested in Brooklyn, N. Y., the officers found a beautiful die of the date of 1854, of the denomination of \$3, American gold, of so fine a finish that it surpasses those used in the mint; also a die for one dollar pieces of American gold, dated 1850, a die for making 5-cent nickels, dated 1866, a die for manufacturing Peruvian 50-cent pieces, twenty letters of the alphabet cut on steel points, for stamping, and words such as the 'Argentine Republic,' etc., cut on steel, and all the other paraphernalia necessary for manufacturing the coin, together with some of the coin.

Upon the person of an accomplice were found the dies and all the necessary apparatus for striking quarter dollars, the date of which unfortunately is not given.

All of the dies were finished in the highest style of art, and will equal the work of the United States mint.

U. S. REVENUES.—This correspondent, possessing a number of United States adhesives, ranging in value from 25 cents to 1 dollar 90 cents, inscribed U. S. INTER. REV., but regularly postmarked with names of towns, writes for information on such an apparent anomaly. We conclude that, as the purchase-money, whether of postal or fiscal adhesives, reaches the government, it is not particular which sort should be applied. In fact, except for the satisfaction of knowing the gain on the several branches of revenue-taxation, it would be perfectly immaterial what stamp is affixed to a letter or document, provided the value were correct.—*Philatelist.*

The above must be a mistake, as a U. S. revenue stamp can not pay postage, and *vice versa*. A letter prepaid with one goes to the dead-letter office, and a document stamped with a postal label is invalid. The reason of this is no doubt found in the need of keeping the postal and revenue statistics separate, as well as in the fact of revenue stamps being sold to any persons at a discount, when bought in certain quantities, whereas postage stamps are never sold thus, except to special agents of the government.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ST. DOMINGO STAMPS.

To the Editors of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST.

DEAR SIR, Mr. James M. Clute of this city having published a letter in a paper called the *Pimbrophilist*, edited by one Taylor(?), to the effect that the statement made by me in the June number, about my having seen "sundry various colored 2-real St. Domingo stamps, in a collection belonging to him, and sold by a dealer of this city," is utterly and unqualifiedly false in every particular. I wish to state that I repeat that assertion, and, further more, I can bring many *reliable persons* to prove such statement to be utterly and unqualifiedly true in every particular.

Yours Respectfully, F. TRIFET.
Boston, September 13th, 1869.

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF PHILATELY AND ITS PUBLISHER.

To the Editors of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY AND NUMISMATIST.

DEAR SIR, I enclose you one dollar for the yearly subscription to your paper. I have just received a copy, and am much pleased with it.

Some time ago, I subscribed for the *N. E. Journal of Philately*, a paper also published in Boston by Mr. C. A. Lyford, and received three numbers, the last being that of March; can you give me any information regarding it, or Mr. L.? I have written to him requesting to know what is the matter, and, at the same time, sending a stamp for reply, and twenty-five cents for two sets of stamps that he advertises. Is this a swindle? or what is it? Perhaps you can give me some information on the subject.

A friend of mine has pronounced the stamps I received of Mr. Lyford some time ago to be counterfeits. I will bring them to Boston, the next time that I come, for your inspection.

Yours &c., CHAS. K. WHEELER.
Providence, R. I., September 4th, 1869.

[The *N. E. Journal of Philately* was published but for three months. We have received several complaints like yours, but do not wonder at them, as it is impossible for any dealer to sell genuine stamps at the prices named by such persons as Messrs. Lyford, Taylor, & Co. You, or any other reader, would oblige by demanding satisfaction of them, and as they *profess* to refund the money if the stamps are not genuine, return them, and ask them to send you your money, and let us know the results.—Ed.]

